

disability **now**

your rights, your voice, your life

**Telling
stories**

Disability in
children's fiction

Liz Jackson

The not so secret millionaire

£2.80 Issue 25
November 2009
www.disabilitynow.org.uk



happeningnow **commentnow** **livingnow** **entertainmentnow** **careersnow**

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Ford Focus range: urban 51.3-20.5 (5.5-13.8), extra urban 78.4-40.4 (3.6-7.0), combined 65.7-30.1 (4.3-9.4). Official CO₂ emission 114-225g/km. This programme is subject to the standard conditions of the Motability 3-year Contract Hire Scheme. Full written details and quotations available on request from a Ford authorised participating dealer or Motability Operations Limited. Under the scheme the vehicles are leased from Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Applicable on contracts received and accepted by Motability Operations Limited before 31.12.2009.



Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Designed to look like it's moving even when it's not.
Ford kinetic Design.



We all need a little magic in our lives. That's why every Ford is designed to look like it's moving even when it's not. Available from Nil Advance Payment. For more information about Ford Mobility, contact your local Ford dealer.

FordFocus

Feel the difference

www.ford.co.uk/mobility



EDITORIAL

Editor Ian Macrae ian.macrae@disabilitynow.org.uk

Editorial Assistant Kelly Mullan Tel: 020 7619 7323

Design/Production Editor Jamie Trounce

Sub-Editor Stephen Games

Reporters Paul Carter Tel: 020 7619 7325;

paul.carter@disabilitynow.org.uk

Sunil Peck Tel: 020 7619 7321; sunil.peck@disabilitynow.org.uk

Cathy Reay Tel: 020 7619 7261; cathy.reay@disabilitynow.org.uk

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager Patrick Durham-Matthews

Tel: 020 7619 7336;

patrick.durhammatthews@disabilitynow.org.uk

Advertising and Marketing Assistant Suzan Hillman

Tel: 020 7619 7120; suzan.hillman@disabilitynow.org.uk

ADDRESS

Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW

Editorial: 020 7619 7323; fax: 020 7619 7331;

textphone: 020 7619 7332; email: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

FREEPOST RLZU-YJSG-ACBJ, *Disability Now*, 800 Guillat Avenue, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne ME9 8GU

Tel: 0844 249 0228 or email dnsubs@servicehelpline.co.uk

UK – 12 issues: £24.00, 24 issues: £40.00, 6 issues direct debit: £10.00. **Europe** – 12 issues: £33.00, **World** – 12 issues: £35.00, **Eire** – 12 issues: £33.00

NEWSSTAND DISTRIBUTION

If you have problems obtaining *Disability Now* through your newsagent or supermarket, visit <http://availability.mmcltd.co.uk> for the nearest stockist or call MMC on 01483 211 222

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Disability Now is also available on cassette, disk or via email from Talking Newspaper Enterprises
Tel: 01435 862 737; www.tnauk.org.uk

Published by Scope,
a registered charity,
no 208231.

© Scope 2009

No material may be reproduced, amended or published, in any format, without the prior permission of the editor. The views expressed in *Disability Now* are not necessarily those of Scope, the editor or staff.



Mixed Sources

Product group from well-managed
forests and controlled wood in China
www.fsc.org Cert no. CO-COC-817281
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

Printed and distributed by
Engage Group.
www.engagegroup.co.uk
ISSN 0958-4676

ABC

18,514

1/1/08 – 31/12/08

PPA

editorial

A matter of focus

Following the verdict in the inquest into the death of Fiona Pilkington and her daughter, I wrote in my blog that, while there appeared to be outrage a-plenty, what was missing was any sense of real anger.

The fact that this woman with her two disabled children was living in their community was entirely as it should be. The fact that others living in that community openly challenged their right to do so is not acceptable. The fact that this naked prejudice led to two people being harassed to death really ought to beggar belief. The fact that Ms Pilkington's attempts to have something done went largely unheeded and the actions of the perpetrators unpunished should be a matter of nothing less than shame for those charged with the protection of individuals and the community.

To compound the injustice, after the event, representatives of charities who really ought to know better and politicians (who probably never will) held forth on the iniquity of "vulnerable people" being targeted and drawing

parallels with incidents of bullying. Disablist bullying is reprehensible, but this was harassment on an altogether different scale. The attacks were not motivated by the family's vulnerability because the family members were not innately vulnerable. In other circumstances, in another place they might have lived full and happy lives as integrated members

“The fact that this naked prejudice led to two people being harassed to death really ought to beggar belief”

of the community. It was the prejudice and hatred in the minds and attitudes of the perpetrators which caused them to do what they did. To major on the families "vulnerability" is to put the focus, if not actually the blame for what happened on them instead of on the people who committed the crime which is where the focus and the blame absolutely belong.

This was a disability hate crime. It's sad but likely that it will never be prosecuted as such.

Visit my blog at www.disabilitynow.org.uk/editorsblog

contents

issue 25 November 2009



Liz Jackson

Selling and Basingstoke both mean a lot to this secret millionaire

26-29



16-19

commentnow

letters.....34-35

Bay abuse, the debate continues, difficulties with banking access and Andy Rickell challenged on carers

Andy Rickell.....37

Has the Equality and Human Rights Commission got the right leader

ask the experts.....38-39

Blue Badge eligibility, stickers for bay abusers and predictive typing on PCs

pete's place.....40

Charities playing the scary card

guest column.....43

Baroness Campbell on new guidelines for assisted dying

happeningnow

editorial.....3

Pilkington: put blame where it properly belongs

news view.....7

As Sparkes leaves, Scope's credibility quest goes on

news update.....8-11

EHRC too slow on hate crime and why welfare to work isn't working for adults with autism

Ruth Patrick.....13

Duncan-Smith's unsound benefit reform

politics.....14-17

Conferences – coming to the aid of the parties

mediawatch.....19

Fake TV, putting on disability

disability rights.....20-21

Trevor Phillips – not making a drama out of a crisis

world view.....22-23

Korea, a whole other culture, same familiar issues

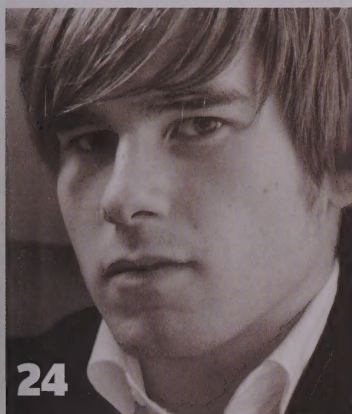
one to watch.....24

David Sands brings Deaf culture to TV



61

your rights, your voice, your life



24



58-59



31-33

livingnow

Liz Jackson.....26-29
Selling and Basingstoke both mean a lot to this secret millionaire

children's books.....31-33
Where are the good disabled characters in children's fiction

up close and personal.....44
Taking on the bullies...and winning

style.....46-47
Custom-built – Lara Masters on individual style

travel.....48-51
Brazil, wake up and smell the coffee

tried and tested.....52
Photographic developments and talking pictures

road test.....54-55
Hailing an accessible cab in Merseyside

sport.....56-57
Great North Weir and injuries hit medallist swimmers

entertainmentnow

entertainment.....58-59
Unlimited – arts and culture for 2012 and reviewed, *Departure Lounge*

webwatch.....60
Karen Virapen on knitted browsing

backlash.....70
Paul Carter, built for comfort, not for speed

careersnow

worklife.....61
Graham Bool on shooting for a living

for sale.....62-64

classifieds.....65-67

holidays.....68-69



22-23



48-51

© DISNEY

© GINA SMITH - FOTOLIA.COM

halfords

UK'S
LOWEST PRICES
GUARANTEE!

Keep active with our NEW mobility range

Scooters



free home delivery with set up & demo

A range of
portable mini, mid size and road scooters

FROM
£599.00 inc VAT
£521.73 exc VAT*

Wheelchairs



free build & safety check on wheelchairs

A range of push and self-propel wheelchairs

FROM
£119.99 inc VAT
£104.34 exc VAT*

Walking Aids & mobility accessories



free build & safety check on walking aids

A range of walking frames and wheeled walkers

FROM
£29.99 inc VAT
£26.08 exc VAT*

Why choose Halfords?

- Try in-store before you buy*
- Knowledgeable mobility advisors plus after-sales service
- UK's lowest price guarantee* and VAT FREE prices for registered disabled customers*
- Stores open late 7 days a week and easy on site parking
- FREE home delivery with set-up and demo on scooters*
- FREE build and safety check on wheelchairs and walking aids*



Halfords is a member of the British Healthcare Trades Association and adheres to the BHTA code of practice guaranteeing your peace of mind.

Find your nearest mobility store

Atrincham	Chelmsford	Farnborough	Liverpool	Stratford Upon
Bangor	Cheltenham	Gateshead	New Malden	Avon
Basildon	Chester	Glasgow (2)	Norwich	Sunderland
Belfast	Chichester	Guildford	Nottingham	Swansea
Bevill On Sea	Chingford	Harlow	Oldbury	Tamworth
Birmingham (2)	Colchester	Hendon	Peterborough	Taunton
Bradford	Doncaster	Hereford	Poole	Tottenham
Brierley Hill	Durham	High Wycombe	Portsmouth	Warrington
Bury	Dundee	Hull	Sheffield	Watford
Cambridge	Eastbourne	Inverness	Southport	West Thurrock
Cannock	Edinburgh	Leeds (2)	Stockton	Worthing
Cardiff	Enfield	Leicester	On Tees	York
Chatham	Exeter	Lincoln		

Check halfords.com/mobility for full store details

Go to Halfords.com/mobility or call 0845 057 9000 for a brochure

10% OFF

our mobility range in-store and online

This voucher entitles you to 10% off any mobility product in Halfords stores or halfords.com. Excludes gift vouchers and staff discounts. This voucher is not redeemable for cash. Photocopies not accepted. Voucher may not be used with any other voucher offer. Only one voucher per transaction. Voucher valid 8th October - 30th November 2009.



00213863

halfords

we go the extra mile

*SPECIAL ORDER PRODUCTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO TRY IN-STORE. **IF YOU CAN BUY THE SAME PRODUCT CHEAPER WITHIN 7 DAYS AND WITHIN 20 MILES OF THE STORE, WE'LL MATCH THE PRICE, EVEN AGAINST TRADE OUTLETS. EXCLUDES INTERNET AND MAIL ORDER. ASK A STORE COLLEAGUE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. *VAT CAN BE RECLAIMED IF YOU ARE CHRONICALLY SICK OR DISABLED OR YOU ARE BUYING FOR SOMEONE WHO IS. *SUBJECT TO PURCHASE FROM HALFORDS, PLEASE ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS. HALFORDS LTD, ICKNIELD STREET DRIVE, WASHFORD WEST, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B98 0DE.

newsview

Sparkes **highlights** credibility credo



Jon Sparkes, the departing Chief Executive of Scope (the charity which publishes *Disability Now*), says that the tension between giving people the services they want and finding the money to do it properly goes beyond the organisation he's about to leave

That old Chinese adage, half threat, half prophecy, "May you live in interesting times", might have been coined for Jon Sparkes's three-year tenure as CEO of disability charity Scope. As he prepares to leave at the end of November, he can look back to the time when he took over and Scope was running an operating loss of

nine million pounds. The organisation's less tangible stock, its credibility with disabled people, the community it represents and on whose behalf it campaigns was also low. And it was seen as a provider of inappropriate, outmoded services based largely on residential institutional care rather

than on independent living, the favoured option of most disabled people nowadays.

The provision of services to people with high support needs continues to represent the bulk of Scope's business. Sparkes believes that a start has been made on service transformation.

"We've got the fundamentals in place. By that I mean we firmly put the needs and wants of disabled people first. We've established a good track record in envisioning new service models and we've made some good progress in moving all of our services portfolio in the right direction."

As emphasis has shifted to working with rather than for disabled people, Scope, and Sparkes as its leader has set increasing store by being an ally of disabled people's organisations (DPOs).

"There are some good tangible examples. The publication of the report with United Kingdom Disabled People's Council and *Disability Now* on disability hate crime is one. But if you aim to be a credible ally, you need to be credible in the eyes of those you want to be an ally with rather than saying it yourself."

But there is an inevitable

tension between establishing that credibility and selling it to the public in terms of fundraising. Other big disability charities rely on pity for the people they serve or fear of being struck by impairment to prize money out of people's pockets. Surely these are tools which Scope cannot use if it's to establish and retain its credibility.

"There's only tension if we get the communication wrong. If we want to innovate a new service, I'd like to think that providing evidence that the service is wanted by the people who're going to use it is part of the fundraising ask. Clearly there are ways of fundraising which might play to feelings of sympathy and that sort of fundraising just isn't for us."

For the future, matching funding to proper and appropriate service provision remains a challenge, and not just for Scope, says Sparkes, but in the wider political arena.

"While political parties are talking about cuts, they've also been talking about personalisation and customer choice. But I'm not yet hearing anyone square the circle between personalisation and cuts."

newsupdate

Equality body too slow on hate crime



Cathy Reay

Campaigners have criticised the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) for acting too late and being too centralised in its reaction to the Fiona Pilkington case.

The equality watchdog has said it will ask Hinckley and Bosworth Council, in whose area the Pilkington family lived, to show that it's eliminating disability-related harassment in compliance with its Disability Equality Duty.

This hasn't satisfied disabled campaigners. Ruth Bashall, co-chair of the Metropolitan Police Disability Independent Advisory Group (DIAG), said: "Disability Equality

Duty has been the law since 2005 and the EHRC did say last year that it would focus on getting it properly implemented.

"There are lessons to be learned from the Pilkington case and a review of their local council is good but this could have happened anywhere.

"Eradicating disability hate crime will need a real political strategic commitment from local authorities to make it a reality."

Anne Novis, United Kingdom Disabled People's Council trustee, said: "We would like to have seen the Commission use its powers much sooner than now. In our report *Getting Away With Murder* we detailed 25 cases of disability hate



crime-related murders. How many more need to happen before real action is taken?"

Fiona Pilkington (*above, left*) killed herself and her daughter Francesca (*above, right*), who had learning disabilities, in October 2007, following a campaign of harassment in her home. Mrs Pilkington's calls for help to police and local authorities prior to the two deaths went ignored.

Scott Westbrook, vice-chair of the National Disabled Police Association (NDPA), said: "Sometimes, as in the Pilkington case, disability hate crime gets put on the back burner because it's not 'sexy' or interesting.

"Too often, police find it difficult assessing disabled

people's ability to stand up in court and cases get dropped."

The Association's chair, Deborah Munday, said: "The NDPA will be having a meeting with the policing minister David Hanson MP, soon. We've asked that hate crime is discussed, including what is being done to ensure that the lessons from Leicestershire are learnt."

An EHRC spokesman said that disability hate crime is "very high" on its agenda. He added that, with the publication of the EHRC report *Promoting the safety and security of disabled people* earlier in the year, work has already started across the country, and not just in the Hinckley and Bosworth area.

- To read *Getting Away with Murder*, the report published in September 2008 by UKDPC, Disability Now and Scope, visit www.timetogetequal.org.uk/page.asp?section=90§ionTitle=Hate+crime
- To read the EHRC's report *Promoting the safety and security of disabled people* visit www.equalityhuman-rights.com/fairer-britain/good-relations/safety-and-security-for-disabled-people

Kia Sedona Liberty

from Jubilee Automotive Group



Almost new for just £19,995
BRAND NEW for just £23,995

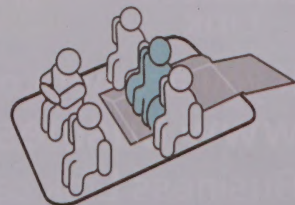


- ⇒ Luxury accessible MPV
- ⇒ Full length lowered floor
- ⇒ Class leading 57" headroom
- ⇒ Economical CRDi diesel engine
- ⇒ Auto & leather trim options
- ⇒ Central wheelchair position
- ⇒ Modern, stylish and practical

www.jubileeauto.net

CALL FREE 0800 634 8407

Jubilee Automotive Group, Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0NQ. Open Monday to Friday 9am-6pm & Saturday 9am-4pm



**Keep the sales coming, the cash flowing
and your business surviving and thriving**

**Business Link in London offers FREE and impartial business advice
to Deaf and Disabled businesses in the Capital.**

3rd November

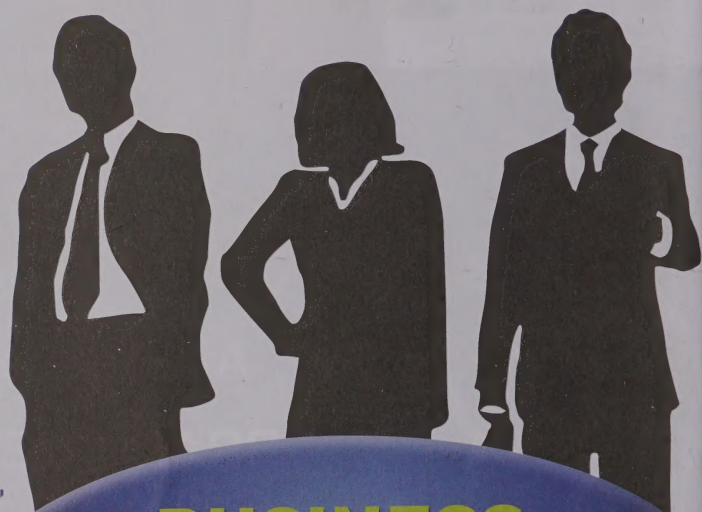
**Business networking for deaf
and disabled people**

This event is for deaf and
disabled people to network
and make new contacts.

24th November

Ideas to business

An event for deaf and disabled
people living in Central London,
who are interested in starting
their own business.



**BUSINESS
ADVICE
TEAM**



**Business
Link**

For more information or to book an event,
call us on **0845 6000 787** (18001 BT Typetalk)
or visit **www.businesslink.gov.uk/london/enable**

If you are not London based call **0845 6009 006** or visit
www.businesslink.gov.uk to find out how your local
Business Link can help you.

newsupdate

Job prospects bleak for adults with autism

Sunil Peck

Jobseekers with autism are being let down by poorly-trained advisers and a lack of specialist support, a report has found.

The National Autistic Society's (NAS) *Don't Write Me Off* report says that only 15 per cent of adults with autism in the UK are in full-time paid work and that many of those not in work are also excluded from the benefits system and rely on friends and family for financial support.

More than a third of those surveyed said that their disability employment adviser's knowledge of autism was "very bad" or "bad".

Peter Griffin (*pictured*), who has Asperger syndrome and is from Hertfordshire, works on a check-out at a supermarket one day a week. He has a masters degree in astrophysics and would like to teach maths.

His mother helped him secure voluntary work as a classroom assistant in college.

He claims Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and is on the Government's Pathways to Work scheme, which is meant to provide specialist support to get into work.



Peter's mother, Ann (*pictured*), says that he has only had two meetings with the specialist support provider.

Speaking to *Disability Now*, Peter said that he was frustrated by the time it was taking to get support in his efforts to find work.

He submitted his ESA application in January, relying on Ann to fill the papers in, because he was unable to understand them.

He said: "I get all buoyed up to do something and nothing happens and my motivation ebbs away. I'm not being kept in the loop. I don't know if they've forgotten about me or

whether they're waiting for something."

NAS chief executive Mark Lever said the survey showed that the experience of the employment and benefits system for people with autism was "marred by anxiety, confusion, delays and discrimination".

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman said that the Government was working with the NAS to ensure that the right help was available for people with autism to find work.

He added: "We understand that people with autism have complex needs so we have arrangements in place to help, such as

bringing along someone to represent them in adviser interviews, if needed. We are determined to provide the best support possible to help them get into work, which is why our wide range of personalised support looks at what people can do, rather than what they can't."

The NAS is calling for a national strategy from government to transform access to employment for people with autism across the UK.

It also wants greater awareness of autism among staff who determine eligibility for benefits and who provide specialist employment support.

10%

01935 872603

www.brotherwood.com

email: sales@brotherwood.com

1 in 10 people in the UK has a disability.
For those that use a wheelchair, transport is not easy.
Brotherwoods have been the benchmark in quality car
conversions for over 25 years.

We are on hand to help you



Fiat Multipla

The full range of Brotherwood wheelchair
car conversions: Volkswagen Sharan,
Caddy Life and Caddy Maxi, Nissan X-Trail,
Peugeot Partner Tepee, Citroen Berlingo,
Fiat Multipla and class leading Kia Sedona.



Kia Sedona

 **BROTHERWOOD**
Automobility Limited

RING FOR DETAILS OF NEW AND SECONDHAND WHEELCHAIR CARS

Failed Messiah's flawed utopia



With the Conservatives possibly six months away from election victory their ex-leader, Iain Duncan Smith has just produced a blueprint for extensive welfare reform. **Ruth Patrick** considers this report's overarching message as a possible model for policy

Predictably this report sets out to help people off welfare and into work and its central premise is that work is good for individuals, good for society – good for pretty much anything and everything, it seems. Currently, it is argued, work does not offer ample financial rewards for those moving off benefits and into work as a result of high marginal tax rates and the sudden withdrawal of benefits. To address this, the report suggests introducing a single benefit withdrawal rate of 55 per cent to ensure that those making the leap from benefits to work do experience a real improvement in their income. This costly proposal is married to a process of benefit simplification. Duncan Smith's report criticises the plethora of some 51 welfare benefits and proposes replacing all these with just two benefits – a universal life credit and a universal work credit.

Unfortunately, the benefit simplification suggested would mean the end of universal entitlement to many benefits. The



ROBIN BELL/REX FEATURES

The benefit simplification suggested would mean the end of universal entitlement to many benefits

disabled community would be particularly affected as Disability Living Allowance and similar non-means-tested benefits would become dependent on income levels.

Even more worryingly, the whole tone of the report elevates work as the key to a happy life for individuals and a functioning society for all. Work becomes an almost transformative activity capable of providing meaning to those who have been feckless and lazy whilst squandering their lives on benefits. As the working population grows, Duncan Smith suggests we will see crime rate fall and health improve as happy

workers populate the land.

Forgive the cynicism, but what of the type of work that people are doing, and all those for whom work is not an option or a sensible life choice? Working long hours for low pay in a monotonous low-skilled job may not deliver the results Duncan Smith promises. Further, this celebration of work neglects other forms of contribution such as volunteering, care work and parenting. It also runs the risk of stigmatising all those who do not work. On the BBC's *Today*, Duncan Smith blithely stated: "the absence of work destroys too many of us." He ignores the damage that a narrow work-first approach may also reap.

Duncan Smith has remodelled himself from failed Conservative leader to welfare state reformer and potential saviour of a supposedly broken Britain. It is vital that we keep a close eye on him as he may well be a key influence in a future Conservative government. This report suggests that we need to be a critical force challenging much of Duncan Smith's rhetoric, proposals and implicit assumptions.

politics

Party! Party!! Party!!! Pre-election Conference fever

As collective breath is held and the political world wonders when Gordon Brown will press the go button, our reporters on the conference floor find out just where disabled people figure in the parties' election plans



**CATHY REAY WITH THE
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
IN BOURNEMOUTH**

Nick Clegg's right-hand man and favoured politician Vince Cable MP told a 6,000-strong crowd in Bournemouth that "if ever there was a time for the Liberal Democrats, this is it". Drip-fed with the words "time for change" and "ready to win", some delegates seemed skeptical the party could live up to their word.

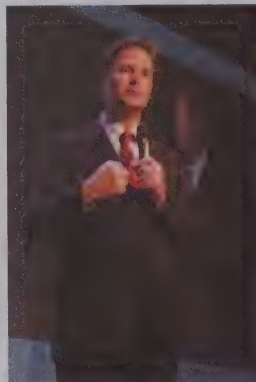
For starters, Cable's controversial announcement of huge spending cuts created fear among disabled delegates who questioned the party's commitment to social care

and mental health, both of which the party has previously singled out for very costly reform.

But Treasury spokesman Cable said spending cuts in mental health wouldn't be considered lightly. "I want to approach mental health in a systematic way and not just allow people to make cuts across the board," he told *Disability Now*.

Norman Lamb MP, the party's health spokesman, said that regardless of spending cuts the party wants to deliver promises in this area. "One in four of us in this country suffer from a mental health problem at some stage in our lives. This

**— Cable's
controversial
announcement of
huge spending cuts
created fear among
disabled delegates
who questioned the
party's commitment
to social care**



is about recognising that a lot of the money that has gone into the health service hasn't been well-used."

Lamb said he wanted to review health quangos staff numbers. He told *Disability Now*: "There are 25,000 people working in health quangos who are not delivering services. We need to cut things like this down to free up resources."

Greg Mulholland, MP for Leeds North-West and a member of the party's health team, said it is imperative to get social care, particularly for disabled people, on the political

agenda. "It is underfunded and undervalued and the challenge now is how that can change in the next parliament."

But Cable and Clegg, united in their plight to reduce Britain's debt, came under fire from their own MPs while at conference, as several claimed they hadn't been consulted by the party leaders about cuts in their areas. Although the furore wasn't concerned with health or disability, by the end (fittingly on the only day of rain) the atmosphere had soured to the point where the party seemed more divided than united.

It raises the question whether, in the (however unlikely) event of the Lib Dems winning the next general election, the party is able to present and deliver a coherent and united message, and whether, after hacking their way through each department, they could live up to their big promises on stabilising mental health and social care.



**SUNIL PECK WITH
LABOUR IN BRIGHTON**

The sun-kissed Labour conference kicked off amid the furore caused by Andrew Marr pressing Gordon Brown on the state of his mental health on TV. Brown denied that he was on medication, but the fact that Marr's question provoked such a backlash from Downing Street illustrates how much of a taboo mental illness still is in Westminster – even though the main parties have pledged their support for tackling the negative attitudes that can prevent people with physical and mental impairments standing for parliament.

I'd been looking forward to asking what other disabled people at conference thought, but I didn't stumble upon many and when I did bump into a disabled person, it was when one of us was in too much of a rush to talk. I managed a quick exchange with the

Minister for Disabled People who, for what it's worth, thought that Marr had overstepped the mark.

The future of the social care system cropped up at a lot of the fringe meetings I attended, but there was no consensus among delegates about how to fund a fairer system. I was at a lot of the fringes attended by the care services minister Phil Hope,

The future of the social care system cropped up at a lot of the fringe meetings I attended, but there was no consensus among delegates about how to find a fairer system

but he kept his thoughts under his hat.

No fringe meeting passed without a Labour politician trotting out a list of policy achievements and warning of the dire consequences of a Tory victory in the general election.

In the pick of the fringes, organised by Every Disabled Child Matters, disabled young people quizzed ministers on what action is being taken to make the education system more inclusive and simplify the process for applying for Disability



Living Allowance (DLA).

The politicians spectacularly failed to engage with them and responded by – you've guessed it – talking about what had already been done to advance equality. The feeling among the youngsters I spoke to afterwards was that the politicians had talked nonsense and that they had not been inspired to vote for them.

Meanwhile, outside the conference centre, Phil Davies, the GMB National Secretary for Remploy, said

that of the two and a half thousand Remploy employees who lost their jobs when the factories were closed, 80 per cent of them are still unemployed. This, let's not forget, at a time when Remploy managers shared bonuses worth more than £1.5 million.

He did not know what the consequences of a Tory election victory would be for the future of Remploy, but he did point out that unlike Labour, they had not closed any factories when they had been in government before. ➔

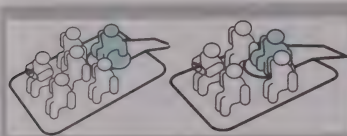
Jubilee Automotive Group

Three stunning new wheelchair accessible vehicles from the UK's No.1

NEW 2009 Ford Galaxy Liberty

New 2009 Ford Galaxy Liberty redefines first class wheelchair accessible travel. Seating up to five adults comfortably along with the wheelchair passenger, it brings together luxury and performance in a spacious and flexible environment. It is luxurious, elegant and exceedingly practical with individual mid row fold flat seats offering unparalleled levels of comfort, access and dignity for everyone

This stunning new addition to our successful mobility range, is surely **one of the best engineered and most sophisticated** family mobility vehicles ever seen, combining the stunning good looks of the Galaxy with our own state of the art low floor access adaptations that truly complement the vehicle in every sense ... a superb vehicle, a beautiful conversion & truly fantastic value for money



From £24,395



NEW 2009 VW Caravelle Range

The new Volkswagen Caravelle and T5 Shuttle Liberty range of accessible vehicles from Jubilee offer the ultimate mobility solution for those requiring dignified personal transportation for all of the family.

The comprehensive range comprises four trim levels, two wheelbase options, three gearbox choices, four different engines and hundreds of variations for wheelchair passenger or driver requirements making this superb MPV the most versatile vehicle on offer anywhere.

The T5 Shuttle is a **beautifully engineered** and finished MPV whilst the even more luxurious Caravelle models offer supreme levels of refinement for wheelchair drivers and passengers alike.



Superb value from £17,395



NEW 2009 Solus Drive from Wheelchair

New 2009 Renault Solus Drive from Wheelchair offers total independence to wheelchair users with fully automated access and wheelchair lock-down. Offering 55 inches of drivers headroom and flat floor access right up to the driving position, Solus is a beautifully refined vehicle and is supplied with hand controls, an automatic gearbox and an electric handbrake system.

Up to 3 additional passenger seats can be specified and Solus has twin sliding doors and a fully moulded factory interior as standard. Access is via an automated powered tailgate and an on-board wheelchair lift so it is virtually effortless and takes just a few seconds. Solus is powered by Renault's latest economical 115 dCi engine. A stylish & affordable driving solution.



Not available in the UK £25,995



CALL FREE on : 0800 634 8407 www.jubileeauto.net

Jubilee Automotive Group, Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0NQ. Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9am-6pm / Sat 9am-4pm



PAUL CARTER WITH THE CONSERVATIVES IN MANCHESTER

Much talk ahead of the conference had been around the need to avoid being seen as too triumphalist, wary of the fate that has notoriously and infamously befallen leaders of other parties ahead of anticipated victories; notably Neil Kinnock's tubthumping performance at a rally prior to John Major's unexpected victory in 1992, and David Steel prematurely telling delegates at the Liberal Party conference in 1981 to "go back to your constituencies and prepare for government."

It had clearly worked. Rumours of a three-line whip telling MPs to moderate their festivities were rife. Reports of a ban on champagne emerged (though several senior Tories, including David Cameron were seen to be flouting that particular edict).

Though the atmosphere was certainly convivial, the whole atmosphere

surrounding the conference felt moderately more subdued than in previous years, though this arguably could be down to the nature of the policy announcements – with much talk of "difficult times" and "tough choices".

Disability featured unusually highly on the lips of delegates in Manchester's hotel lobbies and bars, with the agenda being dominated by a policy announcement early on.

On the first day of the conference, shadow chancellor George Osborne announced wide-ranging plans to reform the welfare system, with one of the key

The commonness of the belief that the system is riddled with cheats and scroungers, despite the facts stating otherwise, was at times unnerving

proposals being the plan to retest all 2.6 million people on Incapacity Benefit for their fitness for employment, and those deemed able to work would, under a Tory government, be moved onto Jobseekers Allowance.

The policy appeared popular with members on the ground, although the commonness of the belief that the system is riddled



with cheats and scroungers, despite the facts stating otherwise, was at times unnerving.

However, Mark Harper, the shadow minister for disabled people, was keen to stress that the proposal was not merely a punitive one, and that plenty of support would be made available to help people back into work, while continuing to look after those unable to do so.

"The whole point of this process is that support will be provided which gives them the opportunity of a better life, not being in a group that are poorer, and giving them the same opportunities as everybody else," he said.

What did feel apparent is that the Conservatives are willing to have disability

issues nearer the top of the political agenda, and not as a minority issue. There were many delegates who were "disability savvy", and all of the fringe events connected with disability, such as those on personalisation of care services, or the future of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, were well-attended by vociferous delegates.

Obviously, there is the small matter of a general election to be overcome first before the champagne corks can finally be popped. If the Conservatives are successful, disabled people will be watching with interest to see if David Cameron's "modern conservatism" will really bring the change the party is promising.



Sussex Health Care

Sussex Health Care is an award winning group of care homes founded in 1985. The Group now operates 16 homes, predominantly in the West Sussex area, providing nearly 550 beds, incorporating specialist care provision as well as care for older people.

Sussex Health Care has recently opened 2 new purpose-built facilities:
Beechcroft Care Centre, West Hoathly Road, East Grinstead

for young people with physical disabilities and learning disabilities.

Horncastle Care Centre, Plawhatch Lane, Sharpthorne, East Grinstead

for young people with acquired brain injury and neurological conditions.

Both homes provide 24-hour nursing care for approx 20 young people in superb purpose-built facilities with track hoisting throughout the homes. Each single room is provided with en suite facilities. A swimming pool and spa pool are available to all service users along with sensory and physiotherapy rooms.



For further information or to arrange a visit, please contact Corrine Wallace,
 Head of Operational Care Services. Tel: 01403 217338 • Fax 01403 210424
www.sussexhealthcare.org • email: corrine.wallace@sussexhealthcare.org

Sussex Health Care operates the following award winning care homes:

BEECHCROFT CARE CENTRE (Physically Disabled & Learning Difficulties) East Grinstead 01342 300499

BEECH LODGE (Physically Disabled & Learning Difficulties), Horsham 01403 791725

HORNCASTLE CARE CENTRE (Acquired Brain Injury and Neurological Conditions) Sharpthorne 01342 813910

KINGSMEAD LODGE (Physically Disabled & Learning Difficulties) Horsham 01403 211790

NORFOLK LODGE (Learning Difficulties) Horsham 01403 218876

ORCHARD LODGE (Physically Disabled & Learning Difficulties) Warnham 01403 242278

RAPKYNS CARE HOME (Adult Care) Horsham 01403 265096

RAPKYNS CARE CENTRE (Physically Disabled & Learning Difficulties), Horsham 01403 276756



mediawatch

I'm a celebrity... **get me a fake disability**

Reality TV looked close to plumbing new depths when a suggestion was floated that celebs could adopt a disability for a week to get a flavour of our lives. **Ian Macrae** wasn't the only one put out

The horror, the horror is a phrase which risks being overused since Joseph Conrad coined it. But it pretty much sums up the almost universal reaction to an email sent to the United Kingdom Disabled Peoples Council (UKDPC) recently.

It originated from an employee of an independent production company and asked whether UKDPC could suggest any "disabilities" which the company could "recreate", for celebrities taking part in a potential TV show. Needless to say, UKDPC chose not to help.

So, apart from the obvious potential for comedy material – which celeb would you really like

to really disable, how and with what – just why were they, we and some well-known disabled personalities aghast? Because, as a reality TV idea, it has absolutely no relationship to reality.

It's like the idea, currently being touted to the gullible British public by the Royal National Institute of Blind People that closing your eyes for a few seconds gives you an idea of what it's like to lose or have never had sight. Take it from me, it doesn't. Any more than sitting in a wheelchair, putting in ear plugs or having one arm tied behind your back gives any idea of what it's like to be disabled in other ways for real.

It also shows that, where

disability is concerned, people still appear to have the nerve for anything. Imagine sitting opposite a TV commissioning

As a reality TV idea, it has absolutely no relationship to reality

executive and suggesting that you had this idea for a bunch of guys to dress up, stick padded bras over their moobs, put on a bit of slap and speak in high voices in order to discover what life is like for women. It's to be hoped you'd be laughed out of the office.

Once the story had been

tweeted out, someone, not from the company but acquainted with them, told us that this was a genuine attempt to explain the social model of disability to viewers. How does that work? The whole point about the social model, except that it's generally regarded as a bit of a blunt instrument these days, is that it explicitly says that it's society, not our individual or even our collective impairments which disable us.

Celebs in wheelchairs, simulation specs or any other kind of got-up fake situation would remain what they are. People pretending.

REAL CELEBS, REAL DISABILITIES from left to right: Francesca Martinez; Jamie Beddard; Luke Hamill; Julie Fernandez and Kim Tserkezie



disabilityrights

Trevor Phillips: not wasting a good crisis



Having been reappointed chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Trevor Phillips (*photo, left*) isn't allowing the departure of some big disability hitters to throw the Commission off track

The two criticisms that disabled people have most consistently made of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are that disability and the issues surrounding it haven't been big enough on the Commission's radar and that the EHRC has failed to show that it's as effective as its predecessor, the Disability Rights Commission, in disability equality matters.

Trevor Phillips's response to the second question is partly that the one behaves differently and has a different purpose from the other and partly that it's a matter of perception.

"What I think is true is that we have to think a bit harder about how we do it. We have to engage with our new role and new powers that are different from the DRC's.

"That might make us look like we're a bit slow because we're not behaving exactly how the DRC might have done."

He's less equivocal on the first question, whether disability figures high on

the Commission's overall agenda.

"The answer is absolutely yes. We've got an internal driver on us anyway in the shape of the Disability Committee; disability is the only equality strand to have this specific provision," Phillips elaborates.

"The Disability Committee will have a voice in the recommendations I make to the Secretary of State on new commissioners. So that tells you that they're a power in the land."

Former head of that committee was Baroness (Jane) Campbell who, along with another veteran activist Sir Bert Massey and a number of other commissioners, resigned in a row during the summer, with some of them raising questions over Phillips's style of leadership.

"I deeply regret their departure," Phillips says. "These are smart people, committed people. They'd be a loss to any organisation."

Recalling their value, Sir Bert as a member of the Commission's Legal Committee, and Baroness

Campbell as "leader, and I use that word specifically", of the Disability Committee, he also stresses that they are not irreplaceable.

"I should perhaps make one point, which is perhaps an awkward point to make. These two are serious figures in the disability movement. But there are other serious figures in the disability movement. So though important people have gone, we ought not to imagine that there aren't other people who can make that kind of contribution."

The current head of the

Disability Committee, Alun Davis, also leaves at the end of this year for what he's given as family and personal reasons. But in the spirit borrowed from an Obama aide of "Never waste a good crisis", Phillips says he's also keen to use this opportunity to beef up the committee, which he sees as a driving force not only on disability but in the human rights area of the EHRC's brief.

In the meantime, Phillips says the commission has to focus on those things in wider society that are likely to have the greatest impact

on the largest numbers of disabled people and other disenfranchised groups.

"We know unemployment is going up. We know public spending is going to come down. We already know that fewer than 50 per cent of disabled people are in work. We know that if we want to make real progress on social care, we're talking about some serious public expenditure. So we're going to do some work which will focus on the impact of recession on various groups including disabled people".

Safety and security, in

particular in relation to people with learning difficulties, will also be high on the agenda. And he indicates that the Commission will be taking direct action in the aftermath of the Fiona Pilkington case.

"This woman and her daughter were basically harassed to death. I'm not a particularly punitive person, but I frankly want to see somebody done for it. Not just the perpetrators, but the system that allowed it and the authorities that allowed it to happen."

NOW AVAILABLE
From Gowrings Mobility
VAUXHALL COMBO TOUR
Best value automatic HAT on the
Mobility scheme
Lo-Call 0845 608 8020 for more details.

Go where you want to Go

The service I received from Gowrings Mobility was everything it should have been and more. Other companies didn't ask about our needs as a family, or about my son and his condition and tried to sell us a 'one size fits all' vehicle, Gowrings Mobility couldn't have been more different.

Nick Moore.

Our wheelchair accessible cars make the going easy. If you are a wheelchair user, you and your family's lives can be changed forever when you own one of our specially converted wheelchair accessible cars. Why struggle with an ordinary car and find it hard to get in and out, when you can travel safely in your wheelchair as a passenger, driven by a family member, friend or carer. As the UK's leading manufacturer and supplier of wheelchair accessible cars, and now under new ownership, Gowrings Mobility has been enabling people with mobility difficulties to lead independent, active lives for over 40 years.

**gowrings
mobility**

MAKES THE GOING EASY

To book your free, no obligation home-try-out or request a free information pack. Lo-Call **0845 608 8020** www.gowringsmobility.co.uk

worldview



© GINA SMITH - POTOIA.COM

Korea's invisible people

Disabled student **Hyeon-bok** reflects on his own life as a disabled person in South Korea and on the low visibility of disabled people in the wider community

I have cerebral palsy. So I have some difficulty walking, but I don't let that handicap me when I am with my friends. But many people think I'm very lucky. Maybe they think I'm superman sometimes. They overemphasise my success, the fact that I have a job the same as they do. They think I work harder than people with no disability.

This may be because disabled people aren't that visible in Korea. We're regarded as pitiful and weak. So, they say "can I help you?"

When I was younger I got irritable when I heard that. But now I'm more accepting of their help; lifting a bag, giving a seat, etc.

But I like my independent life and I think I can do pretty much anything.

In Korea I've stood out because, for example, I've been the only visible disabled person since I was an elementary school student. I didn't see a single other disabled boy or girl in schooldays. But these days there are some disabled people attending university.

And they've formed a group and have a meeting once a month.

In fact, I've found many advantages because I'm disabled. When I wanted to enter my university, I chose an affirmative action initiative for disabled students. It's been running since 2002, and was designed to give disabled students a high-class education. Now, about 2,000 students enter university each year, and those people are more likely now to find work.

Other disabled Koreans aren't so lucky. When I was reporter on my university's newspaper, I saw people living in segregated accommodation. But they wanted to live independently with their own house, their job, their own leisure time. They said to me, "I save my salary, to buy my house." But now many disabled people find getting their independent life difficult. I think their families are concerned that independent living would be very hard for them. But they still want it.

My friend who has learning difficulties said to me: "In separate accommodation, I often feel tamed because it isn't exciting. I know I may feel uncomfortable when I live alone or with friends. But it will be good experience for me." Some disabled people demonstrate against having to live in this segregated way. So, as you can see, the right to an independent life is a hot issue in Korea.

Most disabled people in Korea attend special school. But Korean special education doesn't give them opportunities for social

activities. So some of them prefer to enter normal school. But people with learning difficulties especially find it hard to get a normal education. Many of them go to vocational school. There are about 200 of these.

But they find it difficult to get a job because many employers think that we are less productive than non-disabled people. Korea has affirmative action named "Disability Employment Promotion Act". This action says: "All firms which have more than 300 workers must have two per cent

disabled people in their workforce. If they don't keep to this quota they have to pay a penalty. But many firms choose to pay the penalty rather than observe the quota.

The right to an independent life is a hot issue in Korea

In 2008 fewer than 1.5 per cent of Korean disabled people were in employment. Furthermore, most disabled people have basic labouring jobs. But those of us who are university graduates aspire to

jobs better fitted to our skills.

To sum up, many disabled people in Korea live in poor conditions. Of course, government supports them financially with benefits and tax relief, and creating affirmative action for getting people into employment in the civil service. But this doesn't solve the problems most people face in their lives. If they have family, their poverty becomes worse because they can't make money to feed their family. I think the only real solution is getting jobs for them. This is the key to a better life.

Live your life.

etac®
Creating possibilities

The Balder Finesse 290 from Etac is renowned worldwide for unparalleled reliability, functionality and comfort. Be yourself in a powerchair you can trust – the Balder F290 powerchair from Etac UK.

T 01256 767181

E info@etacuk.com www.etacuk.com

Etac UK Limited, 29 Murrell Green Business Park, London Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9GR



"My carer wanted me to have a hospital bed - I wanted a normal bed.

by choosing a BaKare bed, we both got what we wanted."

Beautiful beds to help you maintain your independence, often at less cost than an ordinary adjustable bed.

For your free brochure, please call us now on

BaKare
make life exceptional

(01752) 512222
www.bakare.co.uk

onetowatch

Signing up for stardom

David Sands appeared as a hospital cleaner in the TV drama *Departure Lounge* which was broadcast in October. He has appeared in *Casualty*, *The Boy from Before* and *Last Night* but *Departure Lounge* gave him the chance to work with actors he says he really likes and respects. He tells us that he likes *Forrest Gump* and how much he yearns for the day when he will be shot with a laser gun.

What's the best thing about being deaf?

Our community, culture and BSL.

What makes you angry?

When people jump to conclusions about who we are and they don't try to listen to our side of stories.

What's the funniest thing anyone has ever said to you about your deafness?

That I am lucky not to hear certain voices.

If you were Prime Minister, what one thing would you do to improve things for deaf people?

Make the UK as accessible as possible for deaf and disabled people.

What's the one thing that could be invented to make your life easier?

A laser torch but with powerful air bullets. You would shoot it at deaf people over long distances to get their attention, instead of tapping them.

What do you like most about acting?

Being someone or something else.

What do you not like about acting?

The waiting.

Who is your favourite deaf or disabled person ever?

Dunno, *Forrest Gump*?



Do you have any special or hidden talents?

Writing comedy scenes and massaging, I suppose.

How would you sum yourself up in ten words or less?

One of a kind.

→ Who do you think is One to Watch?

Send us your nominations for likely lads and lasses who could answer our 10 questions. They can be rising stars in any field of entertainment, business, the media or beyond

- write to us Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
- email us editor@disabilitynow.org.uk
- phone us 020 7619 7323

'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much'

Disability LIB has a new website. Built using a social networking model, the site is for Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs). Our aim is to build an online community of and for DPOs.

The site includes news and information about a range of issues such as funding opportunities, training, events, campaigns and the capacity building support available from Disability LIB.

We have an online map of DPOs and blogging too. This is for you to show others where you are and what you do. Share with the community DPO news, views, information about events, campaigns, activities or anything else your DPO is involved in.

So please register and take part. Check out the help section to see how you can get started. Contact us on contact@disabilitylib.org.uk or 0844 800 4311 (local rate call) for further information.



Helen Keller 1880 – 1968

www.disabilitylib.org.uk




LOTTERY FUNDED



Disability

Listen Include Build



She's recently been one of Channel 4's *Secret Millionaires*, she's ambitious, successful and fulfilled as a mother. And, she tells **Sunil Peck**, she's as comfortable in Basingstoke as she is with herself and her blindness

Liz Jackson

going great guns

Monday morning in an open-plan office in Basingstoke. Fifty telemarketers talk on the phone and tap away on their computers. Not maybe everyone's idea of an exhilarating environment, but Liz Jackson, founder and Managing Director of Great Guns Marketing, is brimming with enthusiasm.

"I was a telemarketer for eight years before I started my own company, and I still love that telemarketing job, I think it's great and I think that working with telemarketers is brilliant."

We're sitting in the headquarters of Great Guns Marketing where Liz has taken time out of her busy schedule of sales meetings, media interviews and conference speaking to talk. Aged 36, her company has six branches in the UK, employs around a hundred people and has an annual turn-over of £2.5 million. It's a far cry from 1998 when Liz borrowed a few thousand pounds to launch her business to business telemarketing company in the front room of her flat.

But the fact that Liz's company got off the ground at all is all the more impressive because she also had to deal with the sudden loss of her sight two months after the launch.

Liz's sight had been getting worse for some time but surely her confidence and self-belief must have taken a battering?

"I don't remember it being a blow at all and I don't remember thinking I had anything to prove because I was blind. I'd just met my husband Ali so I was in love, I'd started my company and I'm a Christian and my faith teaches me to be thankful for what I've got as opposed to thinking about the things I haven't got. I found out about the Access to Work scheme and recruited a PA to help me read, but apart from that I don't remember feeling



JAMIE TROUNCE

emotional about it or feeling down. I don't think it really changed much."

Liz puts her unfailing confidence down to the love and support of her family and growing up in a stable environment where none of her relations have ever divorced.

"I also think that my faith breeds confidence because I don't think that everything is on my shoulders and that God has some responsibility too."

I don't remember thinking I had anything to prove because I was blind. I'd just met my husband Ali so I was in love

Her parents fought hard to keep her in mainstream school against the wishes of the local authority who wanted to send her to a boarding school for disabled children. Nevertheless, school was tough. She was "academically rubbish" and only loved doing drama which didn't involve sitting in a classroom.

Her experience of junior school led to her subsequently rejecting any help she could have had because of her visual impairment, like extra time for exams.

"I had to have an electric typewriter in the classroom. I was nine and typing while everyone else was writing and the typewriter was hard to use and it took me ages to cut out my work and put it in my book. The funny thing was that my handwriting wasn't the worst in the class!"

She went to college but soon turned

to her careers adviser to talk about an apprenticeship.

"She set me up with an interview with a company near Basingstoke and I got a job as an office junior. I was doing admin at first which I was rubbish at. My eye condition meant I had tunnel vision so I couldn't read a whole word at once. My spelling was atrocious, especially because I was entering information into a PC from hand-written documents."

Liz never disclosed her sight problem to her employer, even when things got so bad that she feared her job was in jeopardy.

"I was not interested in the idea of having bad eyesight or support for it at that time because my experience of help and support at junior school had been hideous."

The first step in her rise from struggling office junior to successful telemarketer came when her boss heard her answering the phone one day.

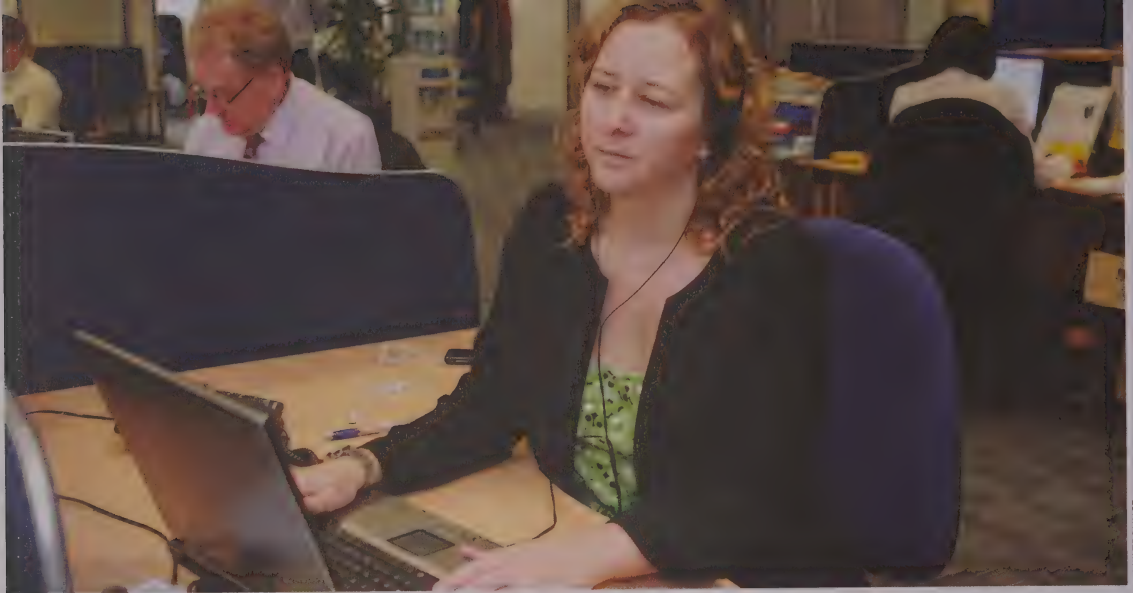
"He said 'you sound good on the phone why don't you have a go at cold-calling?' To be honest I think I would have done anything at that point to keep my job."

She took to cold-calling straight away. It gave her the opportunity to exploit the talent which landed her an A for GCSE Drama.

"Every single time you pick up the phone you've got to put on a performance, even if you don't feel like it. Also, it's incredibly challenging. At 17 I was ringing managing directors of manufacturing companies which was thrilling. I was making four or five appointments for my boss a day and he was going to meetings and winning clients. Sales then became a passion and I knew I'd never do anything else in my life."

She was promoted to become a telemarketing manager and travelled





JAMIE TROUNCE

to America when she was 22 to set up a branch there.

It was the support of her boss that convinced her that she could have a stab at launching her own company.

"My boss made me believe that I could achieve. When I told him I was thinking of setting up my own business he said that he would be my first client. I had nothing to lose. I was 25 and had store card debts from buying clothes, make-up and perfume. I had no kids, husband, or mortgage to pay. I was foot-loose and fancy-free. At that age why wouldn't I have a go?"

Her blindness has proved to be significant in generating publicity and business for Great Guns.

"It's been an advantage for building up the business because from a PR point of view people like to write about me. There aren't many blind women in their thirties running companies."

The confident and self-assured Liz I meet contrasts starkly with the person who appeared the previous week on Channel 4's *The Secret Millionaire*. She spent time with a local talking newspaper, a social club for blind people and a sailing club for disabled people weighing up which of them to donate her money and marketing expertise to. She was rattled by the experience of coming into close proximity with disabled

people, particularly blind people.

"Where it was an environment like the sailing club where I was surrounded by able-bodied people, blind and deaf people, and people with no legs or arms, I didn't mind at all because it was just inclusion and community. But I found the environment of being surrounded by

At 17 I was ringing managing directors of manufacturing companies which was thrilling. I was making four or five appointments for my boss a day and he was going to meetings and winning clients

blind people very difficult and one that I wouldn't want to repeat. It was salsa dancing which I hate anyway, so I was pushed out of my comfort zone. I was very aware of being on television and blind people were bumping into me and nudging me from either side. I was thinking that I would kill anyone if they tried to make me dance with one of the men. The scenario of what it must have looked like just freaked me out. I've never been around many blind people. Not because I've stayed away from them on purpose, I've just not met any blind people in my everyday life."

She would like blind friends though and regrets not being able to tap into support from other blind mothers who could have given her tips on caring for her baby Maddy after she was born two years ago.

Was she tempted to employ any of the disabled people she met while filming?

"I would employ any disabled person who came for a job with excellent communication skills. I've often been asked why we don't employ more disabled people, the answer is that they don't come for interviews. It's a tough job, you're making over a hundred calls a day."

It's also intriguing that for all the confidence that has propelled her to success, Liz relies on her PA to escort her everywhere instead of using a guide dog or cane. But astonishingly, Liz says that it doesn't bother her.

"Not really. I don't see it as a failing because so many people are dependent on me. I did white stick training last year when I was working two and a half days a week and I enjoyed it. But then business got really busy and I'm not allowed the time off."

Nevertheless Liz had been totally blind for years before she picked up a cane.

"I started not being able to move around on my own when I was 26. I was told at that time that I could go on

a residential course for two weeks but I couldn't afford the time because I was running a start-up company."

Her business is beginning to recover from the hit it has taken from the recession so she is anticipating a return to white cane training soon. Her ambition is to master it in time to walk Maddy to school when she starts in two years.

In addition Liz is looking forward to resuming her Braille lessons which also went on the backburner since the recession took hold.

"My sighted daughter has a passion for books and I can just about read a Kipper book to her because of Braille. My real passion for learning Braille is so I can read to her. But it's also valuable in terms of labels. Her Calpol has Braille on it so I can tell that it's Calpol and not her vitamins."

People like to write about me. There aren't many blind women in their thirties running companies

Liz laughs dismissively when I ask what she is doing in Basingstoke when she could be living an opulent lifestyle in London or New York instead.

"Home is where the heart is and my heart is in Basingstoke. My family is here and my husband's family is here so my daughter gets to play with her cousins and uncles and aunts and grandparents all the time. My school friends are here and all the friends we've made since then; our church is here too.

"Everything that's important is here. I can't imagine being in some horrible place like New York just to live in a

poxy penthouse. I don't see the attraction - unless all you care about is posh jewellery and nice clothes."

So where will Great Guns be in ten years time? Will Liz still be Managing Director? I reckon her charm and warmth would make her a great radio host. She likes the idea but it isn't something she's thought about seriously.

"My team is getting to the point where they are becoming strong enough to operate without me so I'm thinking what I can do aside from this. My dad and I wrote a book called *Start Up*, I speak at lots of conferences so I'm keen to develop that, and maybe some TV. But I would only do TV if it was like *The Secret Millionaire* where I could make a difference to people's lives. But I would never give up Great Guns for anything else." ■

Car insurance

Want to drive a better deal?

If you're a blue badge holder you can drive a better deal with Fish Insurance. As the UK's leading disability and Independent Living insurance specialist, we understand disabled drivers needs.

That's why you can enjoy savings of up to 35%* and take advantage of car insurance specifically designed for disabled drivers, including wheelchair accessible and specially adapted vehicles.

So if you are disabled or drive for a disabled person, whether the vehicle is modified or not you can put the brakes on costly car insurance!



- ✓ New for old cover which specifically protects modifications
- ✓ Up to £500 wheelchair in transit cover
- ✓ Free courtesy car or up to £500 mobility allowance if suitable car is not available
- ✓ Up to £200 personal effects cover
- ✓ Cover can be included for a personal assistant

Tel 0500 432141

www.fishinsurance.co.uk

INSURING YOUR INDEPENDENCE



*Applicable to Fish insurance policies only. Monday-Friday 9.00-5.00. Terms and conditions apply. Fish Administration Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Telephone calls may be monitored or recorded for security and training purposes. Fish Insurance is a trading style of Fish Administration Ltd. Registered in England No. 4214119

WIDNES CAR CENTRE LIMITED



Renault Master

Spacious and comfortable travel for seated passengers and wheelchair user.



Nationwide Coverage

Versa

The trademark for safe, well constructed bespoke wheelchair conversions tailored to your needs!

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Renault



KANGOO

Renault



TRAFIC

Volkswagen



CADDY MAXI LIFE

Volkswagen



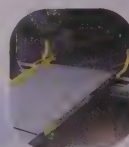
T5

Mercedes Benz

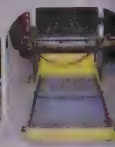


VITO

Features:



Ramp



Tail Lift

Nearly New
Vehicles available
on 3yr Lease on Motability

For information and financial guidance on all our wheelchair access vehicles including conversions, new or used vehicles then call a member of our friendly staff today.

Telephone: **0151 420 2000**

Website: www.wheelchair-access.co.uk

WIDNES CAR CENTRE LIMITED,
MOOR LANE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE WA8 7AL

"Thanks to Widnes Car Centre our life has changed for the better. Their staff were exceptional, from advising us on choosing the right vehicle up to on time delivery."

James & Christine,
Birmingham.

MONDAY/FRIDAY 9.00am - 5.30pm

SAT/SUN - By Appointment

Missing

Disabled characters in children's fiction



"Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by an iron frame!" For more than one and a half centuries, poor crippled Tiny Tim has had to stand – or rather sit – as a lonely and tragic symbol of disability in fiction. **Cathy Reay** discovers that when it comes to children's books, there's still plenty to be grumpy about

Disney's decision to re-imagine the wonderful Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* in yet another movie remake to be released next month has highlighted the shameful fact that books, which are among the first building blocks in teaching children about society, are still getting disability wrong. Very, very wrong.

From beloved timeless characters like Tiny Tim, Clara (in *Heidi*), the Seven Dwarfs and the Hunchback of Notre Dame, to present day fiction written by best-selling authors like Philip Pullman, Jacqueline Wilson and J K Rowling, disability is often grossly mistreated and underrepresented.

One famous example from an earlier book, is in Frances Hodgson Burnett's 1910 classic *The Secret Garden* in which the sick child, Colin, is locked up in the house almost as a secret and →



© DISNEY

his servants are nervous around him. At the end of the story, when he is no longer disabled, Colin finally receives his father's acceptance and love.

And "authors are still treating disability as something shameful," explains Penni Friday, a disabled adult and teen fiction writer.

"In Philip Pullman's novel *The Subtle Knife* (1997), a mother has mental health issues and although her son is protective of her it is heavily suggested that his quality of life has lessened because of her illness."

Helen Aveling, editor of *Unseen Childhoods: Disabled Characters in 20th-Century Books for Girls* (2009), who is also disabled, says that the characterisation of characters with impairments has actually become less positive. "In the early 20th century there were a greater number of books with disabled characters because, after the First World War, a lot of people were injured.

"But by the 1960s disability was not discussed and therefore not included in books. As girls and boys genres merged into non-gender specific children's fiction the occasional disabled character became more stereotyped, increasingly 2D and marginalised."

Disability is either almost entirely ignored or negatively portrayed, as

with the rapacious blind Dementors, in J. K. Rowling's hugely successful Harry Potter series which has sold 400 million copies worldwide; one book for every dozen or so households.

Other than them and Professor Flitwick, a teacher with short-stature, who is a very background character, it is notable that no other characters in the series have a disability.

"You'd think it would be possible for disabled kids to go to Hogwarts and be a wizard but no, they have to stay at home," says Ju Gosling, book publisher and Potter fan.

Dr Tom Shakespeare, research fellow at Newcastle University, who has short stature, says: "In Harry Potter you take a potion and you're cured, it's an interesting message. It is good that Professor Flitwick's short stature isn't treated as something to be ashamed of but let's have a child with a missing limb as part of the main picture here, without their disability being an issue."

Joyce Dunbar, disabled children's book author, says: "There are a lot of books which promote the idea of 'unconditional love' but the disabled child is not there, not in the picture, not there to be loved at all, unconditional or otherwise. This is beginning to change but there is a long way to go."

Not least to educate children that have no experience of or direct contact with disabled people, it's also crucial that disabled children or children with disabled friends or family are able to find reassurance they might need from fiction.

"When I was young I liked it when

You'd think it would be possible for disabled kids to go to Hogwarts and be a wizard but no, they have to stay at home

short people were in books – whenever I would read about dwarves being warriors it made me feel good about the way I was," says Tom Shakespeare.

"Winifred Arrowsmith, a character in Dorita Fairlie Bruce's *St Bride's* (1923-44) series, resonated so well with me as a child," adds Helen Aveling. "She had such a fully-rounded characterisation that she really could have been written yesterday, warts and all."

Initiatives like Scope's In The Picture campaign have been set up to encourage authors, illustrators and publishers to include disability in their work. The campaign received support from author Jacqueline Wilson and illustrator Quentin Blake, among

others, and is regarded by many people in the industry as having helped put disabled characters back in books, particularly for babies and toddlers.

Alexandra Strick, a consultant at national book charity Booktrust and member of the In The Picture steering group, says: "There are certain publishers now that are great at including disability. Childsplay, which publishes baby books, include disabled characters in almost every book they release. They research it well and don't make it the core of the story, which is fundamental in a child's understanding that disability does not make you abnormal or different."

Award-winning author Jacqueline Wilson has confessed that she hasn't given disability much thought. She told In The Picture: "I really feel I should hide my head in shame... [someone told me] I don't have enough children and young people with disabilities in my books, and when I do try, I don't actually get it spot on. But I promise that in the future there will be a book



Award-winning children's book author Jacqueline Wilson speaking at the In The Picture exhibition in April 2008



everyone will recommend."

When disability is featured in books it should be done so in a way that shows the disabled person actively participating in society and focuses more on their personality rather than seeing the disability as their defining characteristic or worse, simply treating it like a disease.

Disabled author Lois Keith writes in her book *Take Up Thy Bed and Walk: Death, Disability and Cure in Classic Fiction for Girls* (2001): "From the 1850s, the time when novels for girls can be said to have begun, up until very recently (and even now writers kill or cure their disabled characters with worrying ease) there were only two possible ways for writers to resolve the problem of their characters' inability to walk: cure or death."

Helen Aveling believes that the uneducated author is partly down to the media's often ignorant attitude towards disability: "The news media is still prone to using outdated language when covering a story about a person with a disability, so 'I do not, as they put it, "suffer" from CP', rather 'I have CP'. Until we have a culture where disability is not seen, spoken about or

portrayed as being simply negative it will be tiny steps forward.

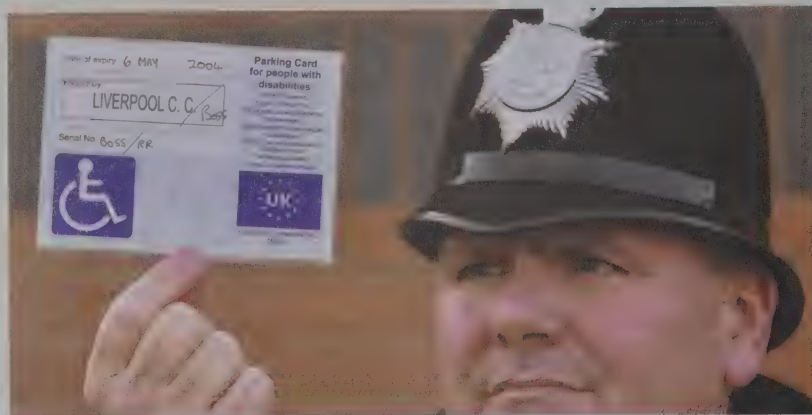
"There has to be an admission that we exist in society and that authors have to work at not falling back onto clichés and stereotyping."

There is a handful of authors like Lois Keith, Helen Aveling and Joyce Dunbar who are trying to get disability into children's literature. But as author Penni Friday points out, disability isn't an area young people are interested in. Until hugely successful authors like Jacqueline Wilson and J K Rowling step up and take disability on board, it might be difficult to get children to read anything other than stories about vampires and wizards, for whom being disabled extends as far as wearing a pair of thick-rimmed glasses.

Joyce Dunbar makes a telling point in conclusion: "C.S. Lewis once said: 'We read to know we are not alone'. A sense of belonging is a fundamental need. Let's offer this to the disabled child." ■

• **To find out more about Scope's In The Picture campaign, visit www.childrenintheimage.org.uk**
 • **To find out more about Booktrust, visit www.booktrust.org.uk**

yourviews



Views of the bay

In October 2008 I ruptured the Achilles' tendon in my right heel. I was in plaster for two months, severely restricting my mobility: in fact for the first six weeks I couldn't walk without crutches.

Public transport isn't very good in my village and as taxi fares can be prohibitively expensive, I had to rely on the goodwill of friends, family and colleagues to get around.

During my recovery period, I couldn't gain any concession or assistance from our local authority in terms of relaxing parking restrictions, because of the rigid criteria relating to the issue of Blue Badges.

I know my difficulties

were expected to be temporary but this didn't make them less real while they lasted.

I now learn that recommendations have been put forward that the restrictions should be relaxed to include those with a temporary disability, but the relaxation will only help those whose disability is expected to last 12 months or more (as against the current three years). It won't help people who've been in the situation I was in.

There must by now be a wealth of knowledge on recovery times relating to mobility problems following surgical procedures: why can't the new Blue Badge legislation include short-

term provision based on what a patient's consultant recommends? I think there needs to be some effective lobbying on this.

**John Shippey,
Haddenham, Cambs**

May I add an additional thought to the one made in the October 2009 issue of *Disability Now* by Malcom Hosie ("Disabled bay users can also offend")?

Mr Hosie referred to disabled badge holders who sit in their cars while their able-bodied passengers go shopping.

I'm concerned that disabled drivers *should* be able to sit in their cars while their *disabled* passengers go shopping.

I'm 33 percent disabled and often sit in my car in a disabled bay while my wife, also a Blue Badge holder, entitled to use disabled bays in her own right, does the shopping. We certainly need the use of disabled bays and the closer they are to our destination, the better.

I'm aware, though, that because neither I nor my wife looks disabled, people might think we're abusing a bay when I sit there. This raises the question in Mr Hosie's letter: how does he know if a passenger is able-bodied?

It can be tricky to know if someone's disabled or not and Baywatch should take care not to leap to conclusions about people on the basis of what they look like.

J G Dowse, Lincolnshire

Is your Baywatch campaign monitoring areas other than supermarkets, such as sports centres? At Leeds Council's South Leeds stadium and pool tonight there were 14 cars in disabled bays. Only three were displaying Blue Badges. This is always the case, and there's a large, free car park not more than two minutes' walk away.

P J Robinson, by email

Misinterpretation lets down carers

I thought Andy Rickell's criticism of Tom Shakespeare in the article "A model of equality" (*Disability Now*, October 2009) was badly done and in poor spirit.

I read Tom's book when it first came out and it didn't say the social model was wrong. It said the current interpretation was too restrictive, needed developing, created oppositions that weren't there and resulted in an unhelpfully limited debate.

I've always thought the social model championed equality, rights and dignity. Some campaigners have over-simplified that model for short-term gains. They've let it be used to bash medical staff and organisations. That's made it very easy for medical services to be undermined.

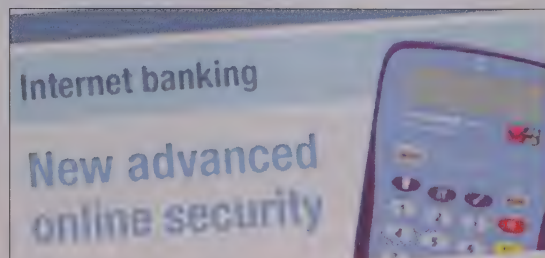
Too many spokespeople confuse the medical model and medical services. I care for my son, and want him to be treated with dignity and

respect, whether he's receiving a medical service or booking a holiday. I want him to use general medical services and have access to specialised services. There's no contradiction in this.

I'm delighted that a more intelligent line is at last being taken: I just hope it isn't too late. The Government's green paper on the Future of Care isn't based on a social model and doesn't talk about the quality and well-being of people needing care: it's more functional and limited. It talks about "personalisation" and taking away benefits that give people a few day-to-day choices. That's depressingly medical and people like Andy should take their share of responsibility. He always talks about marginalising the rights of people who rely on carers, rather than giving them equality. Can you ask him to up his game, so that we can get a better debate?

Helen Daly, Carer

CORRECTION: Dr Juliet Williams, the Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Brighton Kemp-town, has asked us to point out a misunderstanding that arose over the nature of her disability in our article on political candidates with disabilities ("In it to win it", *Disability Now*, October 2009). As the article describes, she has an over-use injury to her hand that has left residual disability in the form of reduced manual dexterity. It is specifically the task of delivering literature on consecutive days that she needs to avoid.



Uncooperative banking

I've belonged to the Co-Operative Bank for some years, managing my finances online. When the card reader was introduced (see "Web-watch", *Disability Now*, October 2009), I found neither the web demo nor the printed instructions to be clear and readable. As a result, the system blocked my pin and even new cards and pins and numerous phone calls haven't resolved the situation. Promises by phone staff have not been kept, and line managers have been unavailable.

All this occurred just as I was going on holiday. Unable to access my own cash I've maxed out my credit card, been charged interest on a Co-Op card bill I didn't receive and on another card where I'd initiated the payment in good time. I've been told I'll be phoned back on this and

haven't been. I'm no longer able to spend and access my money and I've lost control of my finances.

In addition, the bank charges me a fee for administering my current account, which seems grossly unfair. This bank has also stopped paying £10 for each mistake it makes, in spite of the contract I signed up to.

I don't have a local branch near to me that I can visit to resolve this, so today I visited a local Barclays with a view to switching my account. I questioned them on card readers and was told that even when making a transaction on bank premises, it's necessary to take one's card reader. No mention was made of the machine mentioned in your article, which would resolve my problems.

Ian Jacobs, Desborough, Northants

→ Have your say

- write to us *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
- email us editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

CLARKE MOBILITY LTD

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE



CHOICE QUALITY & SERVICE
FROM A DEDICATED TEAM BUILT UP OVER 10 YRS



2007 57 Kangoo 1.2 Gowrings, A/C, 6,000 miles	£10,250	2003 53 Kangoo 1.6 Gowrings, Auto, 40,000 miles, A/C, Swing Seat	£7,250
2007 57 Kangoo 1.6 Auto Expression, 4,000 miles, Silver	£10,995	2003 53 VW 2.5 TDi, Manual, Silver, by Lewis Reed, 23,000 miles	£7,995
2007 07 Kangoo 1.6, Auto, 3,000 miles, A/C, Silver	£9,995	2003 53 Brotherwood Vaneo 1.6 Trend, 51,000 miles	£11,750
2007 07 Kangoo 1.2 Gowrings, 9,500 miles	£8,250	2002 02 Zafira Chairman DTi, 47,000 miles, Comfort pack	£9,995
2006 56 Kangoo 1.2 Constables, 2,700 miles	£8,250	2002 02 Brotherwood Multipla	Due i
2006 06 Kangoo Auto Expression, 2,300 miles	£9,750	2001 Y Mercedes V220 CDI, Auto, Up-front passenger	£10,995
2005 05 Kangoo DCi Lewis Reed	Due in	2001 Y Brotherwood Transporter Tall Boy	£6,995
2005 05 Kangoo 1.2 Gowrings, 21,000 miles, 2 sunroofs	£7,750	2001 Y Zafira Chairman 1.8 Elegance, Silver, 54,000	£7,995
2004 54 Caravelle TDi, Exec, Auto, Side Lift	£20,995	2001 X Brotherwood Tallboy 2.5 TDi, Auto, Caravelle	£TB
2004 04 Brotherwood Kangoo 1.6, Auto, 2,000 miles	Due in	2000 X Brotherwood Berlingo, Automatic	£5,995
2004 04 Kangoo 1.2 Aspect, 43,000 miles, 4 seats	£5,750	1999 V Brotherwood Sharan TDi, 80,000k	£6,495

TOP QUALITY WAVs PURCHASED

Phone Now 01634 243596 – 01622 793079 – 07801 832162

www.clarkemobility.com

**TOP QUALITY
WAVs PURCHASED**



Fears fulfilled by equality body

The Government's single equality watchdog has, says **Andy Rickell**, sadly lived up to some of the concerns expressed about its formation

When I was Chief Executive of the British Council of Disabled People, (BCODP), the national voice of the disabled people's movement, I was appointed as the representative for the disability lobby on the Government taskforce for setting up what is now the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

This was a bit of a coup, as normally I would have expected the Government to appoint someone from the big seven charities. I think a particular reason I was selected was because BCODP's response to Government had reflected activists' worries that a single equalities body would lose the focus on disability rights that the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) had achieved, and the Government had recognised that BCODP's genuine concern had to be represented.

At the meetings of the taskforce I worked closely with Nick O'Brien of the DRC to make sure disability rights got a fair hearing, and this

resulted in the EHRC being required to have a definite disabled commissioner and a specific disability committee. However, I was aware that many activists continued to have major misgivings about the EHRC and the expectation that all the effort to raise the profile of disability rights through the protests of the 1990s would be lost in an ineffective new body.

I think there is a real need for the Commission to make strong links with the people who look to it for championing their rights

It is a shame that activists' concerns have been realised. In part this has been because the Government's support for such a single body seemed to arise more from administrative convenience, and to placate business who lobbied for just one equalities body, rather than from a sense of wanting to up the profile of equalities by strengthening the voice of excluded

communities. The only redeeming features of the Government's direction has been the inclusion in the body of human rights, and the proposal in the proposed single equalities bill to include socio-economic class amongst the determinants of inequality.

But, in part, this failure has been because of the Government's selection of Trevor Phillips as Chair. I think he is a very intelligent person who sometimes hits upon issues in a new and relevant way. Also, anyone who has the connections necessary in government to get the job of Chair is clearly someone who is a good relationship builder with powerful people. But he misjudged his stakeholders at the Commission for Race Equality, and his approach to equality groups at the EHRC has been sadly dismissive – though I hasten to add that his failure to recognise deep-

seated stakeholder concerns were no worse than those of some of the reps during the taskforce meetings. Trevor seems to reflect a sort of professional middle class blindness on how raw some inequalities still feel to some groups – disabled activists amongst them.

I think there is a real need for the Commission to make strong links with the people who look to it for championing their rights. That was my view when I was interviewed first time out for the Disability Commissioner role. It still is. The Commission needs to learn frankly what inequality really feels like to those who experience it most. Anything else is middle class wishful thinking.

• **Andy Rickell is a disability rights campaigner and CEO of the Vassall Centre Trust.**
• • **Read our interview with Trevor Phillips on pages 20-21**

→ Have your say

- write to us **Disability Now**, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
- email us editor@disabilitynow.org.uk
- phone us **020 7619 7323**

asktheexperts

you ask, they answer

EXPERTS

Sexual and Personal

SIMON PARRITT

Psychologist with psycho-sexual therapy experience

Legal

DOUGLAS JOY

Senior solicitor at the Disability Law Service

Benefits and Debt

Citizens Advice Bureau

Puts its expertise at our disposal to help you

Technology and Internet

LÉONIE WATSON

Works with digital consultancy Nomensa

Specialist Equipment

JOHN MANDRAK

Disability journalist and DLF helpline adviser

Travel

ANDY WRIGHT

MD of Accessible Travel, specialist tour operator

Money management

DAVID CLARKE

Senior partner with Clydesdale Bank

Access and Environment

AGNES FLETCHER

Disability trainer and consultant

Property

KATE SHEEHAN

Occupational therapist with interest in housing

Motoring and Transport

HELEN SMITH

Works with Mobilise and specialises in car matters

Who gets a badge, who a sticker?

Q My wife is automatically entitled to a Blue Badge because she gets the higher mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). A friend of hers, with walking difficulties caused by diabetes, also has a Blue Badge but isn't automatically entitled to it. The friend says that soon, no one will be eligible for a Blue Badge unless they receive the DLA mobility component. Is that true?

Geoff Jacobs

Q I run a small business with limited car parking and have two clearly marked

disabled bays. Because they're the closest to the entrance of the premises, they're often used by people not displaying any badges at all. I don't have the resources to monitor this all the time and I'm looking for a simple sign or sticker that I can put on the windscreen of offending cars. I've been unable to find anything suitable and wonder if anyone knows of something I can use.

David Thomlinson

criterion for getting a Blue Badge. People who get DLA at the highest rate will automatically qualify for a badge, whereas those aged over 65 would qualify as a result of being specially assessed. This would also apply to under-65s who didn't automatically qualify. The main change is that in many areas, instead of a GP doing the assessment it will be done by an independent assessor.



Helen Smith says: First, it's

not true that the DLA

mobility component is going to become the only

As for putting stickers on car windows, the problem is that if the car belongs to a disabled driver who's forgotten to display his or her badge, you may be endangering their safety if they can't remove the sticker themselves. There may also be an issue of criminal damage. So I really wouldn't recommend anyone to stick something onto someone's car. If you insist, though, www.disabledstickers.co.uk has plenty of stickers to choose from. It also has leaflets specifically for people parked in disabled bays that aren't sticky. That's the leaflets, not the parkers.



TOMASZ BIDERMAN / SHUTTERSTOCK

Is it legal to sell a product that's got essential bits missing?

Q I'm disabled and recently saw an advert for a lightweight folding scooter in the national press and decided I'd find out about details by looking at the firm's website. The site confronted me with an application form, which I had to fill in, and advised me that the details would

come in the post. When they arrived, there was a phone number to ring to get details from another company. What amazed me, though, was that the scooter came without a battery, and that they gave you the choice of buying either a lead acid or jelly battery separately. Can you tell me if this is legal? Isn't

it tantamount to selling a television without a plug?
Denis Shaw



Kate Shehan replies: I'm not an expert in consumer advice

but I'd think that a scooter needs to have a battery to be a "scooter" and that to offer one without a battery

is mis-selling, as it wouldn't be fit for purpose. It sounds like a ruse to get contact details ahead of a person-to-person sales pitch (with or without pressure, depending on the company). My personal opinion is that the advert sounds misleading and should be reported to the Advertising Standards Authority for investigation.

Can software make typing easier?

Q I'm disabled and have a lot of difficulty using a keyboard because I can only type with one finger. Is there any predictive software you know of that will save me having to key in whole words? A disabled friend who could hardly use her fingers was able to type whole lines on her Apple laptop as fast as an able-bodied person. Unfortunately she moved away and I can't find the software's name. By the way, I can't use voice recognition software as I have speech problems as well.
Roger Kroger



DUDAREV MIKHAIL / SHUTTERSTOCK

use Windows. Usually it's aimed at people with literacy difficulties, so predictive typing often comes as part of a wider bundle of tools.

Read & Write Gold from Texthelp Systems includes predictive typing among its features. The £140 package includes a speaking dictionary, text highlighting and text-to-speech capability.

An alternative is the Penfriend XP. For £60 it includes predictive typing and an on-screen keyboard that can be used with the mouse.

There are also features in Open Office and Microsoft Word that may help. Open

Office, the free alternative to Microsoft Office suite, has a predictive auto-complete typing feature.

Microsoft Word has a slightly different auto-complete function. You can set up keyboard shortcuts that automatically fill in common bits of information. For example, you could set up a keyboard shortcut that would display your full address, just by typing in a single keystroke.

For more information, you can find Read & Write Gold at www.texthelp.com, Penfriend XP is at www.penfriend.biz, Open Office Writer is at www.openoffice.org and advice on auto-complete in MS Word is at www.practicalpc.co.uk/computing/tips/010917.htm

Léonie Watson writes:

Predictive text is a standard feature on most mobile phones. As you enter the first few

letters of a word, the phone tries to predict the word you're typing. When it correctly predicts the word, you can fill in the rest of the letters in a single step. It's a simple idea that makes the process of texting on a mobile phone considerably easier for many people.

Similar software is available for your computer, if you

→ If you have a question for our panel

- phone us 020 7619 7323
- write to us Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
- email us editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

pete's place

Putting on the frighteners



Charities which cynically play on the fear factor, says **Peter White**, are seriously missing what should be the point and purpose of their own existence

There's a man who frequently stands at the entrance to Oxford Circus tube station, shaking a tin, and intoning mordantly: "Help the handicapped! Please help! Help the handicapped". I have not yet struck him, but it's always a close-run thing.

The policy-makers at most charities involved in disability would now stoutly

deny that any such crass slogans could get past their gatekeepers of appropriate portrayal. In which case, how come three of the major charities could be seen at the party conferences, cheerfully playing the sympathy and warning cards to raise money.

Now admittedly they're not shaking tins and crying "Help the blind! Help the deaf", but in many ways they

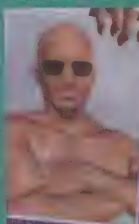
might just as well be. All three: the RNIB, the RNID, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, have been emphasising the negatives of the situations they represent: the RNIB with its "Lost and Found" campaign; the RNID with its pressure for hearing tests, and the MS Society with its stress on the early debilitating symptoms of the condition. In all honesty, the only difference between such campaigns and blatant tin-shaking is that while the latter is designed to appeal to the "sympathetic" gene, the former is targeted at the

"selfish" gene: in other words, rather than asking you to feel sorry for those who've already got it, you ask people to think how terrible it would be if they got it, and to part with some cash quickly.

I know charities have to raise money: the golden age – which like most golden ages probably never existed – when we could at least try to believe that statutory funds and services could provide for disability need without a lot of tin-shaking, have gone. A combination of Blatcherism and demographics have seen to that! But couldn't we at least attempt some consistency about the images of disability that charities display?

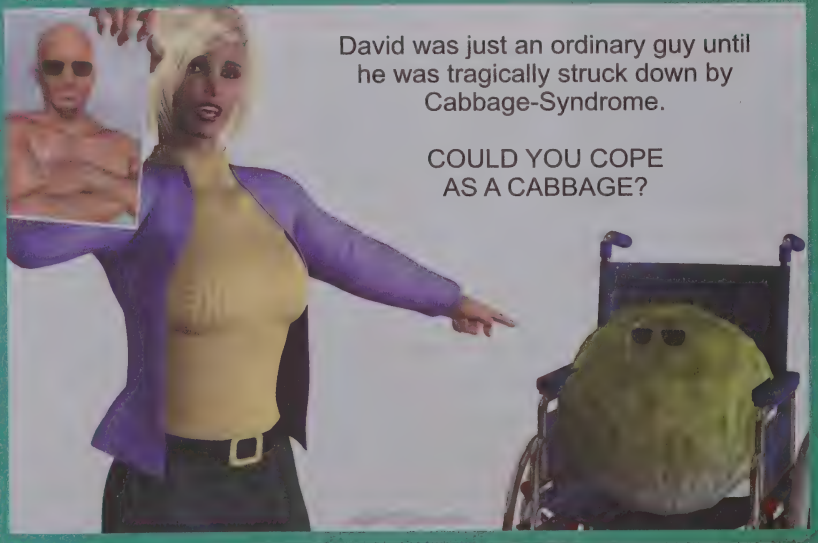
It's as if the army of fundraising consultants, and the army of right-on portrayers, never talk to each other; and it seems highly likely to me that this is the case: or at the very least, never listen to each other! Can positive images of disability really not raise as much money and awareness as the "give us some money, or this will happen to you" approach? It seems to me that if charities want any claim to consistency, and any credibility in their assertions to campaign for people's rights, they have a duty to try rather harder than they are at the moment!

ed cetera



David was just an ordinary guy until he was tragically struck down by Cabbage-Syndrome.

COULD YOU COPE
AS A CABBAGE?



Mercedes Benz Vaneo Liberty

Mercedes Benz Vaneo Liberty is a sophisticated wheelchair accessible MPV offering almost 60 inches of wheelchair passenger rear headroom and four passenger seats as standard. Over recent years this superb vehicle has proved to be enormously popular and practical. We currently have a selection of one owner, low mileage pre-owned vehicles in either petrol, diesel or automatic derivatives. Please call.

Automatics & Manuals



New from just £11,995
Fully adapted

VW Caravelle Liberty

Volkswagen Caravelle Liberty is amazingly versatile. A truly prestigious wheelchair accessible or wheelchair driven luxury MPV with over 200 different options on a complex drive from wheelchair solution, we have them all. Lowered rear floor, underfloor or onboard chair lift and fold out ramps ensure that whenever your mobility needs this superbly elegant and spacious vehicle is the ultimate mobility choice

See more on our award winning website

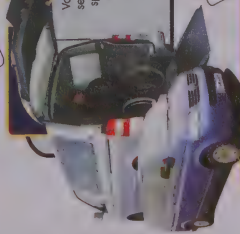
Now from just £19,995
Fully adapted



VW T5 Shuttle Liberty

Volkswagen New T5 Liberty is the best value for money accessible MPV we have ever seen and is also available as a wheelchair driven solution from Jubilee. This wonderfully spacious & economical turbo diesel can be specified in two wheelbases and with a whole range of engine and gearbox options including the impressive 6 speed 'tiptronic'. We are able to offer both new and used models including : low floor, chairlifts & low impact conversions.

See them all at www.jubileeeauto.net



New from just £17,395
Fully adapted



Kia Sedona Liberty

Kia Sedona Liberty from Jubilee is quite simply the best value for money wheelchair accessible luxury MPV ever, offering either a full length lowered floor with 4 seats or a rear only lowered floor with 5 seats. We can now supply brand new, newly new & used Kia Sedonas at truly amazing prices with 57 inches of headroom. Economical, stylish & practical. Take advantage of our FANTASTIC OFFERS

... and BUY BRAND NEW for just £23,995 or used for just £11,995

Used from just £11,995
Fully adapted



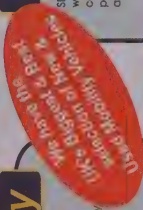
www.jubileeeauto.net

SEAT Alhambra Liberty

SEAT Alhambra L & Liberty from Jubilee are without doubt the most refined and desirable wheelchair accessible vehicles available today in the UK. Why compromise when you can own one of these beautifully designed luxury MPVs, complete with up to five passenger seats and our superbly designed and engineered lowered floor access conversion for less than you would ever imagine?

Why not take a look on our new website at www.jubileeeauto.net

..... and see for yourself.



New from just £19,995
Fully adapted



Suzuki Liberty & Suzuki Life

Suzuki Liberty & Suzuki Life are truly unique. Suzuki Liberty offers full wheelchair access to a compact motorcar whilst Suzuki Life delivers full independence for wheelchair drivers with fully automated access solutions and disabled driver hand controls plus a fully automatic gearbox. Whilst others in the UK have focused their attention on producing converted vans, we took the view that people with disabilities deserved better. The outcome: two superb mobility products. New & Used in stock

Why not call us free on 0800 634 8407

New and Used from £4,995
Fully adapted



Renault Solus .. Drive from Wheelchair

New from Jubilee, the amazing Renault Solus 'drive from wheelchair' is the most practical and economical driver vehicle ever. This latest innovation from our inhouse design team has produced a car leading the floor smooth approach to supplying the needs of wheelchair drivers. Its fully featured interior offers a truly refined and effective surface and its fully automated is stock now for immediate delivery.

New, fully automated £25,995
drive from wheelchair

See our fantastic website for more information

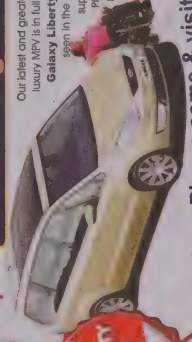


The Stunning New 2009 Ford Galaxy Liberty

Our latest and greatest creation... the brand new Ford Galaxy Liberty wheelchair accessible luxury MPV is in full production and available right now. As with all of our stylish accessible MPVs Galaxy Liberty is beautifully engineered and is finished to the highest standards ever seen in the UK, setting new industry standards for refinement and practicality by offering superbly simple wheelchair access with five additional passenger seats.

Please see site to contact us to request information

from just £24,395
for the Liberty L



Invitation : Please come & visit us, we are open 6 days

The campaigns network: your network for change

"Being part of the network gave me confidence to get my ideas out there on employment accessibility and make a difference through local campaigning."
Dean Thomas, campaigner

From campaign resources to tailored training and support we give you the tools you need to create the changes you want to see locally. Join the network to get inspired on a whole range of issues, including access to transport, leisure and your community.

Email us at campaigns@scope.org.uk



About cerebral palsy.
For disabled people achieving equality.



guestcolumn



Following the publication by the Director of Public Prosecutions on assisted suicide, **Baroness Campbell of Surbiton** says this represents another step along the road to sanctioning the ending of what others regard as worthless lives

I am obviously disappointed that these guidelines signal the first moves toward state-sanctioned assisted dying, albeit in another country. Keir Starmer says this is just clarifying the law, not changing it. However, that is not the way members of the pressure group Dignity in Dying are interpreting it. I warned about sleepwalking into an assisted dying culture only two months ago when I challenged Lord Falconer's amendment to the Coroner's and Justice Bill. On that occasion the amendment was defeated. I likened such

seemingly small moves to traffic lights. I think we are definitely on amber now, soon to turn green on a culture which says: to be severely disabled or ill is a state worse than death, so let's put ourselves out of our misery. I wonder how comfortable hundreds of your readers who live with challenging impairments feel about their new image? Once we were charity cases; are we now "dead men walking" – or should I say dead people wheeling?

Most importantly, while for the greater part they seek to be applicable

to the population as a whole, they also target people who are seriously ill or have progressive disability as a class which, by inference, is seen as less deserving of the law's full protection than are the rest of the non-disabled public.

I'm also concerned that they take a more lenient view of assistance with suicide given by spouses, partners, close relatives and close

friends than by other people – yet it is precisely amid family dynamics and close relationships where exists the greatest scope for assistance to be given with ulterior motivation behind closed doors; think of all the overstrained carers and families who have been given little or no support for years!

They do not make clear where physicians sit in all this – it is possible to interpret the guidelines as they stand as taking a lenient view of patient assisted suicide. While I accept that their concern is with assisted suicide as a whole, I do feel that, if we are not to have euthanasia by the back door foisted onto us, we need a statement to the effect that assistance given by a physician to a patient in the course of his or her professional duties will be regarded as possible grounds for prosecution. Otherwise this changes the dynamic between patient and doctor. Already that relationship has been under question on occasions. Some of us are personally familiar with those initials DNR (Do not resuscitate) appearing on our notes because of decisions made about the value of our lives by doctors.

→ Have your say

- write to us **Disability Now**, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
- email us editor@disabilitynow.org.uk
- phone us 020 7619 7323

upclose&personal

Beating the bullies

Bullying is an all too regular thing in schools, with disabled children more likely to be targeted than others. **Henal Ganatra**, 16, (pictured, below) shares his experience and tells how he's got to a position where he's able to help victims

It started when I moved from Leicestershire to London and joined my new primary school. As I'm not English by birth

(I was born in Africa), everything was new to me and the language barrier didn't make it any better.

At first I failed to socialise and make friends because I didn't know how to, so I was classified as the quiet boy of the class. Then, due to my disability, cerebral palsy, I used gadgets to support me in my learning, and from being a quiet boy who never talked to anyone I became the centre of attention, which I didn't like at all.

Neither did some of the children around me.

They felt they were being left out, got more and more jealous and started calling me horrible names. When it was playtime they'd segregate me from their group

and stop me joining in.

From then on I became very sensitive and emotional and felt as if I was all by myself.

Name-calling turned to hitting and in some cases spitting.

My biggest mistake at this time was

not telling anyone. One boy told me "if you tell anyone I'll hit you more" so I bottled it up. I did eventually tell a teacher but very little got done.

Then finally, while we were doing our exams, one of my so-called friends managed to get my house number out of me, called the school, said horrible things about a teacher and left my number. The

next day the headmaster called me to one side after the exam and quizzed me.

When I burst into tears, he said that if I didn't tell him what I'd done he'd take me out of the exam and involve the police, which got me extremely scared, so I admitted to something I hadn't done.

That afternoon when my mother came to pick me up, she noticed that something wasn't right. Again I bottled it up until I broke down in tears again. When I finally told her what had been going on, she went straight back to the school. The next day everything was sorted out.

One day I saw some kids rapping and it sounded poetic and emotional to me. So that night I went home and started writing and soon it developed into a mechan-



ism that I used for dealing with the bullying.

For example, if I was sad I'd write slowly and sadly and if I was mad at something I'd push the pen down on the paper angrily. I

always said to myself that the paper was the only thing that listened to me and understood me.

If you get bullied, don't bottle it up. Tell someone, even if the person or group that bullies you warns you not to. Anything you say will make a huge difference and get things sorted out more quickly.

Remember, also, that no one has a right to abuse you. You're not alone if you tell someone.

• **Henal is a CyberMentor with the charity Beat Bullying. For more information visit www.beatbullying.org**



Sirus Automotive launch the UK's most affordable 'Drive From Wheelchair' and 'Passenger Up Front' vehicle solution



The SIRUS 'SWITCH' is completely versatile,
you can travel up front as a passenger or
drive from your wheelchair, and swap places
at any time.

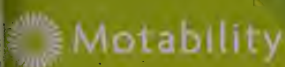
Based on the Fiat Qubo M-Jet Dynamic; fully automatic,
1.3 Litre Turbo Diesel engine. Both front seats have
a quick release system so the chair user can choose
whether to travel as a driver or passenger.

- Quick and easy entry from the rear
- Fully automated tailgate and ramp
- Fully automated push button gear selector
and electronic handbrake
- Fuel economical - 62.8mpg
- Excellent Sirus service - we offer a 3 years guarantee
on both emergency call outs and annual service



Private purchase price £21,995. Available through the Motability scheme
from 1st October 2009, advanced payment just £6295.

For further information please call 0800 046 7620, e-mail info@sirusautomotive.co.uk
or log onto our website at www.sirusautomotive.co.uk



Live your Life

I love to look good and I'm very particular about what I wear. Generally, I would not choose to dress in a rigid metal and plastic frame accessorised with large rubber wheels and a battery pack but, if I want to get around, that is my necessary outer garment. There is an answer to this disability dilemma; customising.

It's a simple word but if you add a little bling to your disability kit you get some serious sugar. By sugar I mean love. Attention. Adoration. You may even get your very own stalker.

My last power chair was a black hulk of a machine, intimidating, tank-like; it scared people. Then I adorned it with 88 red velvet roses and not a day passed when I didn't get hordes of people coming up to me and admiring them – and me – as the social barrier of disability was dissolved in those scarlet petals.

I have just got a made-to-measure lightweight power chair (TiLite with an E-Fix power pack from Gerald Simonds); it's sleek and sexy as far as wheelchairs go (and this one goes many nights' dancing to a charge). I'm mid-customising my new ride now; I've painted a large silver glitter skull on the back and covered the wheels in black and silver mesh. I'll be adding a cornucopia of Swarovski crystals, black roses and silver spiders. Gothic. Yet sparkly.

Debbie Deboo is another disabled woman who has also learnt the art of winning friends and influencing people with a couple of cleverly placed rhinestones. "Now I almost constantly need a wheelchair, even going out for a little while in the wheelchair ruins the rest of the day for me and I just sleep.

"I used to be a fun loving, party attending, social events organiser and I taught Religion and Philosophy. When I got ill, I lost my job. I lost my friends.



Customise satisfaction

Walking aids like wheelchairs, walking sticks and crutches are not made with style in mind but an ugly grey crutch or utilitarian looking wheelchair can really ruin an outfit. **Lara Masters** looks at ways to style up mobility gear and say bye bye to bad chair days

"I'm still the same intelligent, vibrant person but I find I can't remember things, I suddenly can't spell, I can't read books. I prided myself on my achievements and intelligence. I have excellent qualifications and won a scholarship to university, now my head hurts when I try to think.

"It was when I started using an elbow crutch for support on the times I tried to walk that I had an idea. I'm a colourful person; I love clothes, shoes, bags, beautiful things. I had already covered my wheelchair in diamante but the crutch I had was grey... that couldn't be! So I started accessorising crutches to suit



various outfits. I got so much positivity and so many comments whenever I used my stunning sticks that I decided to start a little business making them to order and Glam Sticks was born!"

But, says Debbie (pictured left), Glam Sticks aren't just pretty crutches; they are a form of social empowerment. "In the past people would look at my crutches and look away, maybe embarrassed to confront disability, but now they look at my crutches, smile and then look at me and

keep smiling. Sometimes they stop to talk to me whereas before it was almost as if I didn't exist. Glam Sticks has given me something to live for and a way to help other disabled people experience what it's like to get a continuously positive reaction to their disability."

Debbie and I have found cult-status from jazzing up our disability aids. Anything from hearing aids to white sticks and scooters can be easily customised, so join us! Love is just a spritz of spray-paint away. ■

Need some inspiration for a dull crutch? Check Debbie's website <http://www.glamsticks.co.uk/> or contact her to discuss ideas and requirements to come up with your own personal Glam Stick. Prices start at £25 per stick for the children's range, £35 per stick for the adults' range.

THE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED

LARGEST INDOOR DISPLAY IN THE UK

COMPREHENSIVE PRE DELIVERY INSPECTION

ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES TAKEN IN PART EXCHANGE

FREE UK MAINLAND DELIVERY

COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY

FINANCE FACILITIES AVAILABLE

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE HIRE

0121 550 8844

WWW.TWAMCO.CO.UK

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES WANTED

As Rio de Janeiro is named as the host city for 2016's Olympics and Paralympics, **Penny Batchelor** travelled to Brazil to experience both sides of the country: nature at its finest at Iguassu Falls, and the bustling metropolis of Rio de Janeiro

Iguassu Falls, which spreads across the Argentina/Brazil border, is a jaw-dropping sight. It's not just one, huge waterfall but a collection of them, some colliding and creating a misty whirlpool of rainbow-topped water.

The spelling of the falls depends on which country you are in. Argentines, who speak Spanish, call it Iguassu (or Iguazu) Falls, whilst their Brazilian counterparts, who speak Portuguese, know the natural wonder as Iguacu Falls. The national park containing and surrounding the falls is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Both countries have viewing areas and it's well worth seeing both sides of the falls. Travelling between countries takes about an hour and involves going through a checkpoint for each country, meaning a few more stamps in your passport.

The Argentinean side of the falls is well set up for disabled visitors. On arrival tourists walk to a mini-train station to catch an open-air train to the upper circle walk, or to then change trains to reach the Devil's Throat viewing area walkway.

No walking for me, however, I was whisked on the back of an electric buggy to the front of the train queue. At the beginning of each viewing walk I left my walking frame with the staff at the information point and exchanged it for an off-road capable, three-wheeled

wheelchair with huge tyres.

Iguassu means "big water" and that's an understatement. Every second three million litres of water go over the top. The waterfalls range in size and are given quaint names such as "Adam" and "Eve" and "The two sisters".

At the horseshoe-shaped Devil's Throat viewing point, along a metal walkway over the falls, visitors walk past the broken remains of a previous bridge swept away during a flood. It was a mild, sunny day when we passed over the river, yet even so the amalgamation of various waterfalls into the Iguassu river at Devil's Throat

really packed a punch. There's a continuous roar of water and spray as water thunders into the river.

On the Brazilian side of Iguassu Falls, back through the checkpoints, we got a feel of the water's power. On one of the viewing platforms there you can venture out (again I was in the safety of a borrowed wheelchair) directly in front of one of the waterfalls. The less adventurous wore a plastic mac bought at the gift shop but we braved the short journey without and came back soaked but thrilled by the view and experience. Make sure you have a waterproof camera though!

A short internal flight took us to Rio de Janeiro. It's not the biggest city in Brazil, nor the capital, but it's certainly the most well known globally.

Rio de Janeiro means "River of



Did you know?

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world. Beating it are Russia, Canada, China and the USA.

Falling for that Rio magic

Did you know?

Sample a little bit of Brazil at home by making a caipirinha cocktail. Mix together the spirit cachaça, sugar and lime.

is the famous religious statue of Christ the Redeemer. The statue was inaugurated on 12 October 1931 and was five years in the making. It is 38 metres tall, including its pedestal and is a stunning landmark over the city. That is if it's not misty and pelting down with rain like when we visited.

We boarded a railway, which takes tourists up through the Tijuca tropical forest to the statue. The word "tropical" should have given me a clue as to the potential climate. At the top of the railway there's an escalator to take tourists who want to avoid the flights of steps to the base of the statue's pedestal. The problem was on the day we visited the escalator was switched off for safety reasons due to the inclement weather. With my cagoule tied tightly round my chin I stared up at where the statue should be and had a great view of nothing but grey cloud and lashings of rain.

I hoped we'd have a better scenic view when we took a trip up Sugar Loaf mountain. The Portuguese gave the mountain its name because they thought it resembled a block of refined sugar. Today Sugar Loaf is a huge tourist attraction with two cable cars ferrying visitors up to the top to see the allegedly spectacular views of the city.

Our visit started off well. On the hill at the top of the first cable car ride we looked over at the fading lights in the evening sky across Rio's bay, which boasts Copacabana and Ipanema beaches.

It was when we went to board the second cable car that circumstances got →

January" – no prizes for guessing that's because the Portuguese first came across it in January, 1502 to be precise. Rio is historically the home of the samba dance and each year the celebrated carnival begins in the purpose-built Sambadrome in the city.

This is an outdoor concrete structure with tiered seating and lots of room for the revellers to parade. Outside of the festival it's a common-or-garden road.

Our first tourist visit was the Corcovado mountain, which means hunchback. At the top of the mountain



Penny at Copacabana beach

ENJOY LONDON THEATRE



AUDIO-DESCRIBED, CAPTIONED and SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETED

performances are making London theatre more accessible and enjoyable.

Call **020 7557 6700** or email **enquiries@solttma.co.uk** for a free brochure listing assisted performances taking place across London, available in large print, Braille or on tape. Alternatively visit the website below to download the brochure as a PDF or in rich-text format.

www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/access

Wall Eden Farm



Wall Eden farm is the home of BIRST – We offer Rehabilitation for Acquired Brain Injury and Disability friendly accommodation

Log Cabin Holidays



Set within seven acres of grounds, Wall Eden Farm offers a selection of four Luxury Log Cabins for your next self-catering holiday.

We offer a range of activities on site, including: Fishing, Archery, and Wildlife Safari's across the Somerset Wetlands.

All of our cabins are wheelchair friendly, as we believe that everyone should be able to enjoy a stay here, in our little haven.

Wall Eden Farm Ltd, New Road, East Huntspill, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 3PU. Tel: **01278 786488**.

www.walledenfarm.co.uk • www.birst.org.uk

SAVE a massive £2000
off all Caravelle Executives
this October and November *

Volkswagen Caravelle wheelchair accessible

Invatravel's Caravelle conversion, fitted with an underfloor lift, has been the ultimate family transport for the past 25 years. Phone for details.



* Offer applies while stocks last.

HOME DEMONSTRATION, NEW, EX-DEMONSTRATOR & SECOND HAND VEHICLES, SHORT AND LONG TERM HIRE

Northern Agent for Brotherwood conversions of VW Sharan, VW Caddy Life, VW Caddy Maxi, Peugeot Partner Tepee, Fiat Multipla (travel beside the driver) and Brotherwood's 'Red Label' conversion of the Kia Sedona.

97 Lytham Road, Southport, Merseyside PR9 9UG, Fax: 01704 506607, Email: sales@invatravel.com

INVATRavel
CONVERSIONS

Tel: **01704 506608**



Visit our website **www.invatravel.com**



Above: Iguassu Falls; right: Penny at Corcovado mountain

more ominous. The rain came back and at the top of Sugar Loaf our view was of tourists trying to stop their umbrellas blowing inside out in the midst of a torrential thunderstorm. A helpful guide took pity on me and led me through an area out of bounds to the public, in the hope that it would be quicker for me to reach the dry cable car building to wait for the next ride down. In the cable car, which swung in the wind, we couldn't see a thing through its glass window. "It's like travelling into the abyss!" shouted one unnerved American.

I bought a postcard in the gift shop to see what the view should have been like.

One trip that didn't require good weather was an evening meal and samba show. Brazilian cuisine is influenced by many cultures including African, Portuguese and Spanish, but a mainstay is beef. After dinner at a steakhouse we enjoyed a theatre samba show. The dance resembles the city – loud, proud and colourful.

Rain or shine, Rio is a huge, noisy, developing city trying to recover from deep economic problems, the opposite of Iguassu. All these facts do not make Rio de Janeiro a very disability-friendly place. Pavements are cracked, drivers ignore traffic lights (when they are not stuck in traffic jams that is), locals rush blinkered to get to where they want to



be and facilities such as tactile paving or ramped access are few and far between.

The best way to get around is to recruit the help of an English-speaking tour guide who will be able to show you the sights and will know if what you wish to see is achievable. Major tourist sights like Sugar Loaf mountain and the Tijuca railway do have some disabled facilities but you may have to ask to be able to use them. For example, there's a lift at Sugar Loaf mountain to enable passengers to skip the flight of stairs up to the cable car departure area, but when I went the area was blocked off and we had to ask a member of staff to open the lift for us. On the positive side, staff were only too pleased to help when approached.

Now that Rio de Janeiro has been chosen by the International Olympic

Did you know?

Iguassu Falls is made up of 275 waterfalls.

Committee to stage the 2016 Olympic Games, maybe the pending arrival of the Paralympics teams will encourage the city to improve its disabled access, not just for the visitors but for locals too. In a place where slums (known as Favelas) claw to hillsides not far away from security-guarded rich neighbourhoods where an apartment costs millions of pounds, equality is certainly not taken for granted.

At the end of the trip, in the taxi back to the airport, we briefly spotted the Christ the Redeemer statue lit up in the dark, evening sky. At last – finally we had a glimpse of Rio's most famous landmark and saw the promise that the city holds. ■

Don't miss:

A full moon falls walk – guided tour only available a few days every month.

Getting soaked taking a boat ride on the falls.

For meat eaters, sampling a Brazilian steak.

Wandering along Copacabana beach in Rio – Barry Manilow song thankfully not included.

Riding up the railway on a clear day to see the statue of Christ the Redeemer, finalist in the new Seven Wonders of the World vote organised by the New7Wonders Foundation.

How to get there:

Penny travelled with BA to Rio de Janeiro from Heathrow. Other airlines also fly to the city. Internal flights from Rio de Janeiro to Iguassu Falls are available with the Brazilian airline TAM.

tried&tested

Photo opportunities

Digital technology can make a positive difference to the ways in which we view our snaps. **Ian Macrae** takes a look at some interesting developments

Gone are the days when you needed a degree in chemistry and confidence working in total darkness in order to process your own pictures. Gone too the alternative, having to wait three weeks for prints to come back in the post. Now you can look at, keep or delete your pictures on your digital camera as you shoot them.

Digital kit has also taken the place of the old-fashioned slide projector. There are now a wide variety of digital photo frames available so that you can share those magic moments and memories.

There's a whole variety to choose from at a variety of prices. The one we looked at is the Jessops 6360. This is a high-end model which therefore comes in with a relatively big price ticket. But blimey, do you get a lot of bang for your buck.

The frame comes in two sizes, 8 and 10x4". As well as 2GB memory of its own,

it can accommodate virtually every known form of portable memory, which means that you can take your card or memory stick out of the camera and plug it into the frame for immediate gratification in larger format. Not only that, it comes with its own onboard editing suite so you can crop, resize or otherwise change your pictures pretty much on the fly.

Add to that the fact that you can send and play audio



files, music, for instance, to accompany your slide show, and even video files for those palmcorder memories and we're talking clear versatility.

But if your idea of wow factor is flicking through the pages of a lovely retro photo album, there's one of those that's been given a digital twist too.

The Lifemax talking

photo album has space for 24 prints. But each page has a button; press that button and the record button on the side of the album and you can record a message of up to ten seconds duration which is then associated with the picture. Obvious uses include telling a blind person what the picture looks like, or taking a snap of the grandchild and getting them to record a special message for granny and grandad to bring the picture to life. It could even be used as an aide memoir for people with dementia or other memory issues.

Now all we need is for someone to combine these two nifty ideas into one really useful bit of kit.

INFORMATION

Jessops high resolution digital photo frame: £99 (8x4"), £139 (10x4").

www.jessops.com

Other simpler digital photo frames are available at much lower prices: Lifemax Talking Photo Album - £34.99. www.co-opnext.com

Mencap's wills and trusts team...

We believe their financial care tomorrow is as crucial as it is today.

At Mencap we understand that, for many parents and carers of people with a learning disability, making a will and setting up a trust can seem a daunting prospect.

That's why we provide:

- an in-house wills and trusts solicitor providing free legal guidance
- free seminars across the country giving face-to-face advice
- a recommended solicitor directory
- free information booklets giving straightforward advice
- the Mencap Trust Company Ltd, which manages money left to someone with a learning disability.

Planning ahead can make all the difference to the lives of those close to you and provide you with peace of mind.

For further information tel: **020 7696 6925**

email: willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk quoting ref. LMADDN007

visit: www.mencap.org.uk/willsandtrusts



The world's internet audio at your fingertips – no PC required!

Sonata INTERNET AUDIO PLAYER

Only available from BWBF, and specially designed to suit the needs of people who are visually impaired or suffer manual dexterity problems, Sonata is simple to use and once set up can be operated by remote control. A wireless connection means it can be used anywhere in the home.

(Broadband connection needed)

FEATURES

- Simple operation – five buttons and one dial
- Plays audio files, podcasts and live streams
- Audible programming guide
- Bookmark facility
- Brings access to: radio stations (local, national and international), talking newspapers (local and national), magazines, audio books, audio programmes for visually impaired people, newsletters, audio catalogues and much, much more...

12 MONTHS' INTEREST FREE CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE

If you are registered blind or partially sighted and would like to purchase, please contact us for details of VAT EXEMPTION.

For further details, please visit our website, call **01622 754757** or write to **BWBF Direct Limited**, 10 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5DZ.

FULL DETAILS ONLINE AT: www.blind.org.uk

BWBF DIRECT LIMITED

(Company No. 5673285)
is the marketing arm of the **BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND FUND**

DisNow5/Mkt09

BWBF
Reg. Charity No: 1078287



roadtest

Taxi victory opens door to rights



Taxis are the main transport option – and sometimes the only transport option – for many disabled people, yet comparatively few are fully accessible. **Helen Smith** reports on a high court victory for cab users in Liverpool that could mean more accessible taxis for more people



As an ambulant disabled person, I've always found so-called accessible taxis quite hard to get into. Not only is there a huge step to negotiate but the seats are set so far back that the only way I can sit down is by flopping backwards, which gives many a taxi driver a bit of a shock.

I'm not the only disabled person to find accessible taxis pretty inaccessible. Many people with large, powered wheelchairs also struggle to gain access to the standard TX2 taxi.

But a taxi exists that's more accessible and this is the Peugeot E7 taxi, manufactured jointly by Peugeot and accessible vehicle

specialist Allied Vehicles.

This taxi is bigger than a TX2 and disabled people find it easier to get into; it's also safer. But it seems that not all local authorities are keen to embrace it.

When Alma Lunt, who uses a wheelchair, asked Liverpool City Council to license the alternative style taxi, her request was turned

down. This was despite the fact that she and other disabled people repeatedly explained to the Council's licensing officer and licensing committee that vehicle constraints prevented them being properly positioned and safely secured in the existing London-style taxis.

The licensing committee turned down the new-style

taxi because it has sliding doors and doesn't meet a 28-foot turning-circle requirement, a demand that originates in the days of the horse-drawn hackney carriage in London.

When Liverpool's licensing chairman refused to issue licences to the drivers of Peugeot E7 taxis, Alma Lunt and other campaigners, backed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), went to the High Court and challenged the Council's decision at a two-day judicial review.

The High Court found

At a two-day judicial review, the High Court found that the Council's decision not only discriminated against disabled people but was flawed and unfair

that the Council's decision not only discriminated against disabled people but was flawed and unfair.

Susie Uppal, director of the EHRC's enforcement team, said: "For many years,

disabled people in cities such as Birmingham, Glasgow and Cardiff have been able to travel in safe, efficient and convenient E7 taxis. It is only right that the people of Liverpool may now have that same opportunity."

Alma Lunt said: "This would give me the freedom I need. Nearly two in five wheelchair-users in Liverpool cannot use the TX2 but would be able to use the E7."

Donald Pow, general manager of Allied Vehicles, the other claimant, said he was "delighted" with the ruling, which came

at the end of "a long, hard struggle".

Liverpool Council is presently reconsidering its position on the E7 in the light of the judgement. Let's hope they've now been "persuaded" to listen to their disabled residents.

Although the E7 taxi is licensed in 95 per cent of local authority areas, Manchester City Council and Transport for London are still refusing to license it. I and I'm sure many other disabled people hope this ruling will help them to change their minds.



enABLE09
creating independence
for people with disabilities

6 - 7 November 2009, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Education – products – information – advice

VISIT enABLE09 – the only consumer show for people with disabilities or limited mobility seeking a more active, independent life

- **OVER 120 ORGANISATIONS** offering products, services and advice to people with disabilities
- **FREE seminars and masterclasses**

For free tickets worth £10 each register
Online www.enableshow.co.uk/now
Or call 0844 545 0083 quoting NOW.

Leonard
Cheshire
Disability



Injury ruins Roberts's Reykjavik dream

Paralympic swimmers David Roberts (*pictured*) and Danielle Watts have been forced to withdraw from the IPC Swimming European Championships in Reykjavik due to injury.

Eleven-time Paralympic champion Roberts, Great Britain's joint highest medal winner, will have to sit out the event after suffering a fall.

The Welshman, who holds three world records, fractured his elbow and bruised his ribs and right shoulder, stopping him adding to the ten gold medals he's already won at European events.

Watts, a Paralympic silver medallist and fellow world record holder, will also be forced to cry off.

The 29-year-old from Oxford has a rotator cuff injury that has led her to withdraw from the team.

Tim Reddish, National Performance Director of British Disability Swimming said: "It's very sad and disappointing that both of these athletes obtained these injuries this close to the competition.

"The whole team of athletes, coaches and support staff wishes them

well and hopes to see them back in the water as soon as possible."

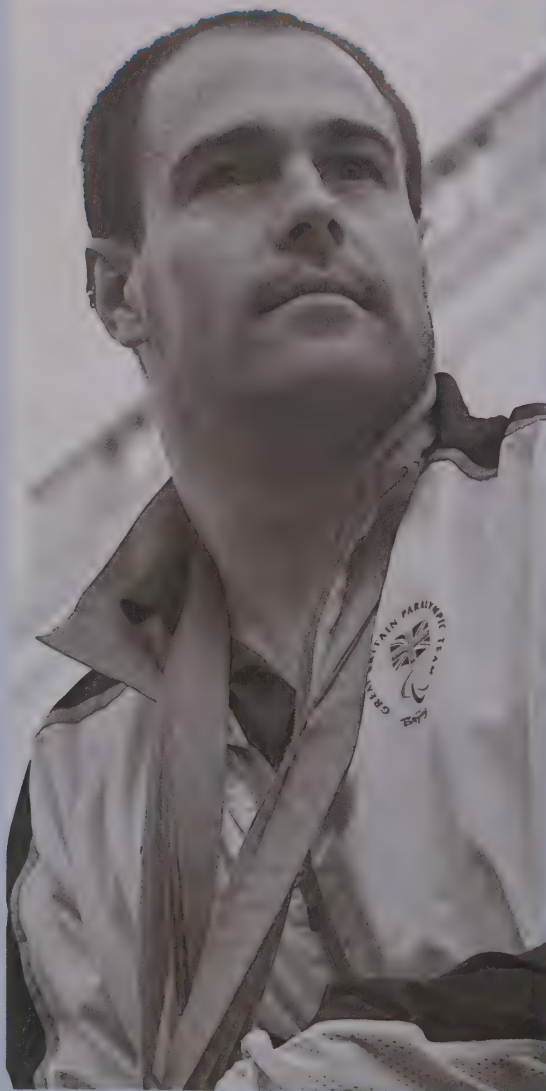
The IPC Swimming European Championships take place in Reykjavik from 18-26 October.

GB will be sending 39 swimmers, featuring 26 who competed in last year's Paralympics in Beijing, including double Paralympic champion Eleanor Simmonds and six-time Paralympic champion Sascha Kindred.

Reddish said he was keen to see his team ready to take its first step towards the London 2012 Paralympic Games:

"The team has a good mix of youth and experience, with representation from not only all of our programmes [talent development schemes] but also from non-programmed athletes," he said.

"This is the major meet of the year for our athletes and step one in the beginning of our four-year cycle. It's also the first major international meet for those athletes who competed in Beijing and I think it will be a good test to see where we are in European disability swimming."





JAMIE TROUNCE

Weir win on Tyneside

British wheelchair racer David Weir stormed to victory at the 2009 Great North Run, shaving almost a minute off his own course record in the process.

Weir, who won two gold medals at the Paralympic Games in Beijing last year, looked back to his best, crossing the line in a time of 41:34, beating his previous mark of 42:33 which had stood since 2005.

It didn't all go Weir's way,

however, and the 30-year-old from Wallington was pushed hard in the first part of the race, with reigning champion Josh Cassidy of Canada leading at the halfway point.

However, the four-time London Marathon winner showed his class to pull away, eventually finishing 38 seconds ahead of his rival.

"I wanted to go under 45 minutes but from the start I could see it was going to be

a quick race," said Weir.

"Sometimes it's tough to be out on your own but I made a break from the field before a hill and then pushed again on the hill.

"I've been concentrating on the road more this year and I wanted to do well at the back end of the season.

"I really wanted to win today and then hopefully again at the New York Marathon in November."

However, there was to be no hat trick of Great North Run titles for Blackpool-based athlete Shelly Woods, with the double Paralympic medallist instead opting to compete in the Berlin Marathon.

Woods, 23, finished second in Germany, despite knocking over a minute off the course record.

Beijing Marathon bronze medallist Sandra Graf of Switzerland took the honours, breaking away at the 35km point and maintaining her lead.

Woods did however compete in the traditional warm-up event to the Great North Run: the high-speed, downhill, Tyne Tunnel 2k.

Woods won in a record time of 5.33.4 in a photo finish on the line, ahead of American Amanda McGrory in second place with a time of 5.33.9 and Diane Roy of Canada in third place in 6.00.5.

"You can go over 40mph in the downhill part of the race, so it's a little scary but great fun," said Woods.

Weir completed the British double in the event in a time of 4.04.09, clocking up a downhill speed of 44mph in the process.

He finished 7.9 seconds ahead of 2008 winner Josh Cassidy, while Spaniard Roger Verdagueur finished third in 4.42.5.

entertainmentnow

£3m for "Unlimited" 2012 arts package

Kelly Mullan

Unlimited, a £3 million disability arts programme, was launched on 7 October as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Unlimited is the UK's largest ever disability arts programme. Organisers hope to, "transform the disability arts movement in the UK through major new commissions and talent development programmes".

Unlimited will create new work for 2012, invest in young talent and "showcase excellence using the power of the Games to challenge traditional perceptions of disability in the UK and stimulate a global debate amongst young people about disability rights internationally".

The partners behind Unlimited are the Olympic Lottery Distributor, Arts Council England, Scottish Arts Council, Arts Council Wales, the British Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympics Games (LOCOG).

The £3 million fund is split into two sections, half



in a commissioning fund of £1.5m for new work – believed to be the largest single investment in creative work by disabled artists. The second half of the programme will provide support to artists to develop their talent and skills and present their work to audiences in the UK and abroad.

Jenny Sealey, MBE, Artistic Director, Graeae Theatre Company and Artistic Advisor for Unlimited said: "The disability arts community has been on tenterhooks waiting for Unlimited to be unleashed. Disability arts and culture demonstrates artistic excellence, crosses all boundaries and is a powerful agent for change.

"I hope the future after

Unlimited will be one of new audiences, new artistic partnerships and collaborations across the creative industry with talented disabled artists rightly given equal status and profile."

Tony Hall, Chair of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad Board, said: "In Beijing we became the first Organising Committee to have disabled artists in the handover ceremony for the Olympic Games and we will continue this commitment."

Lead cheerleader for Unlimited, Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "London

is leading the way on disability arts, highlighted by the Liberty festival and companies like Graeae and Candoco. So give a cheer for Unlimited, an unprecedented showcase of disabled artists and opportunity to discover new talent. I want the 2012 Games to be the most accessible ever and Deaf and disabled people – whether athletes, artists, or spectators – are central to making that happen."

Artists can now apply for funding of £25-£50,000 at www.london2012.com/unlimited

→ Up-to-the-minute listings

For all the latest arts listings, visit www.disabilitynow.org.uk/entertainment/arts

TV

Departure Lounge

A new deaf drama, the latest offering from the pairing of writer Charlie Swinbourne and director Louis Neethling, presents us with a rooftop story played out between two men who are at different stages of life.

Sid (Hal Draper) is an ailing older man languishing on a ward in a bleak-looking hospital, while Matt (David Sands) is a young cleaner who spends more time going down to the pub and

playing pool than he does with his partner Jill and their baby. Abigail Gorman, as Jill, expresses her frustration and exasperation with Matt's irresponsible ways, while Patsy Palmer, as Morag, Sid's wife, is all hope and optimism for her husband's return home.

Sid and Matt meet by chance when Matt sees the ward nurse talking at Sid. At first Matt's overtures are ignored, but eventually Sid allows Matt to smuggle him to the roof, or as Matt refers



to it, "the hospital deaf club".

Over the next few days as Matt continues to take Sid to the roof, they discuss

such topics as life, love, fatherhood and the possibility of a deaf heaven. Whilst it's good to see the immature Matt grow under Sid's influence, I can't help feeling that it's a little clichéd: the wise old man passing on sage advice to the insecure youth. That said, it's done nicely, with an original setting, with good direction and acting, clear signs on-camera and food for thought for those who have given up trying.

Donna Williams

Loud & Proud

Lizzie Emeh

Gift Idea

"Some people call me the UK's Queen of Soul and in Lizzie I think I've found a pop princess with soul." Beverley Knight

Out Now

Stunning debut album including singles **Hard Love**, **I Like the Bass** & **Over You**

Available from iTunes and Heart n Soul. Call 020 8694 1632

www.heartnsoul.co.uk • www.lizzieemeh.co.uk

Heart n Soul

GENIE

Good health demands that everyone should stand up, preventing bladder problems and assisting with better circulation, digestion, bone development and pressure management. The versatile Genie also assists carers by alleviating unnecessary lifting.

- IMMEDIATE
- VERTICAL
- PORTABLE
- MANEUVERABLE
- CLIMBING
- STEERING
- BRIDGING
- CARRYING

The Genie - Ingenious!

easy care

Further information from Easy Care Products Limited, Park Lane, Old Park, Telford, TF3 4TE. Fax: 01952 616588

01952 610300

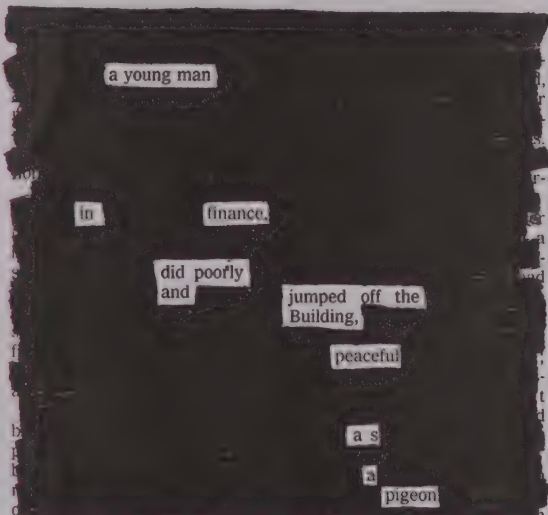
NOW SUCCESSFUL CRASH TESTED

CE

webwatch

Wool gathering on the web

Multimedia design professional and amateur knitter, **Karen Virapen** tells *Disability Now* where she finds creative inspiration – and a pattern for a woollen G-string – online



I work in an Irish university and when I'm not eavesdropping on racy conversations as research for my campus novel, I spend most days enduring death by PowerPoint or reading endless documents written in ten-point Times New Roman.

So when I need a holiday for my eyes, I head over to ffffound (<http://fffound.com>), an image bookmarking website where artists pick out amazing photos and

illustrations they've found on the internet. A quick trawl in their archives is a great way to lose an hour.

Having lived with anxiety and depression for ten years or more, one great outlet for me has been knitting although I've been knitting the same scarf now for four years; soon it will be able to circumnavigate the globe. Stitchlinks (<http://www.stitchlinks.com>) is a group that promotes therapeutic knitting and stitching for people managing long term

illness and it sells kits to get budding knitters started.

Ravelry (<http://www.ravelry.com>) is a buzzing Facebook-style knitting social network where you can meet and chat to fellow knitters and find amazing patterns for anything you might want to create. Click their "naughty" tag under Patterns for some very, er, creative ideas. (Surely a knitted G-string wouldn't be that comfortable?)

If you want to see guerrilla knitters creating covers for telephone boxes (<http://bit.ly/xBy7>) you can, via the power of Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com>), a photo-sharing website where you can find an eclectic range of images (for "eclectic" read "sometimes bonkers"). All human life is there, plus lots of cute animals. Want some pix of Sakura cats up cherry trees? Somebody obviously does: there's a whole photo-set devoted to them (<http://bit.ly/2pAKwe>). Want to browse pictures of the Indian colour festival, Holi? Go to <http://bit.ly/xS6IW>.

Of course, no day of

procrastination would be complete without a sprinkling of blogs to read. Ten minutes with a funny blog, a cup of tea and a Curly Wurly and I'm like a pig in muck! Current favourites include Dooce (www.dooce.com/), Jason Kottke (<http://kottke.org/>), and Little Red Boat (<http://littleredboat.co.uk/>).

For design beauty, I look to the style blogger, The Sartorialist (<http://thesartorialist.blogspot.com/>), who photographs diverse and quirky people he finds on the street.

Poems are another great source of pleasure to me, so I was delighted to stumble on writer Austin Kleon's Newspaper Blackout Poems (<http://bit.ly/2A3xzn>), see left. He takes a marker pen to a newspaper page and makes poetry from random uncovered words.

For more ideas on boosting your mood and being creative at the same time, check out the BBC site Healthy Minds, a website I helped to write a few years back (http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/healthy_minds/). Nothing like a bit of self-promotion!

→ Have your say

- write to us *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
- email us editor@disabilitynow.org.uk
- phone us 020 7619 7323

worklife

Happy snapper

Graham Bool has been taking photos since he was a boy. He explains how a childhood fascination has become a career that's taken him round the world

I've always been interested in photography. At an early age, I got hold of a cheap camera and became the bane of my mother's life, going round photographing airliners at 30,000 feet on black and white film that came up like dots.

That interest continued through my school days. Later I spent seven or eight years in photographic retail, running the showroom for Agfa in Piccadilly.

After a stint in PR, I found I'd had enough of being behind a desk and wanted to use what I'd learned photographically. That's pretty much what I did and I've been doing it ever since.

I do all sorts of subjects, from portraits and conferences to the occasional party and sport.

Sport I got drawn back to really. I was on the GB Paralympic team for 12 years and played wheelchair basketball in 1972, 1976 and 1980, retiring when my children were born.

I'd been out of the game a few years when a chap from the old British Sports Association for the Disabled got in touch and said: "Why

don't you shoot sport?"

At the time I didn't have the kit but I soon got some and it's grown from there. I shot my first Paralympics in Barcelona in 1992 and I've been doing that ever since. I hope to shoot London in 2012 and I'm looking forward to Rio in 2016, if I'm still breathing.

Photographing the Paralympics is fun but knacker-ing. Typically, you try and get there three or four days before, to adjust to the jetlag but also to recce all the venues, because whatever the information says, there are always issues.

Being a photographer using a chair, you don't necessarily go through all the doorways that the walking guys go through. Checking out press venues and things like that is all very important stuff.

I had polio when I was 18 months old. To begin with I had these bloody great callipers that they used to make you wear then.

Eventually I learnt to walk with a stick and that went on well past my teens when I began to experience muscle weakness and



changed to crutches. I could still work on my feet, but it was handy to have people around to lug the bags and cases.

Then I realised I could work more quickly and efficiently using a chair and I've done so ever since, though sometimes it isn't an option.

My most memorable recent job was Beijing. I'd been warned that the Chinese were unhelpful and

would look at you and stare. I found the opposite. With the exception of one or two taxi drivers, all the people running the outfit, the volunteers, the people in the street and people we met who desperately wanted to speak English, everyone was just fantastic. Beijing was memorable, enjoyable and exhausting, but I'd go again.

• **Graham Bool was talking to Paul Carter**

GRAHAM BOOL: CAREER PATH

- 1955-1963 – Hatchford Park Residential School for The Physically Handicapped, Surrey
- 1963-64 – Archbishop Temples School, Lambeth Road, South London
- 1964-67 – Civil Service
- 1968 – Decca Navigator, Bought Ledger Dept
- 1968-69 – Dixons Cameras & Hi-fi – assist. manager
- 1969-77 – Agfa Gevaert, manager of photographic showroom in Piccadilly
- 1977-87 – Film, TV & Video with West End PR company
- 1983 – Began own business
- 1987 – present day – Graham Bool Photography

FOR SALE - Tel: 020 7619 7336, Fax: 020 7619 7331,
Minicom: 020 7619 7332, email: patrick.durhammatthews@disabilitynow.org.uk

CARS/VANS/CARAVANS

FORD TOURNEO CONNECT -
LWB LX 1.8 TDCI 90PS - Gowings
conversion - 2009 - Remote
control central locking, driver &
front airbags, front fog lamps, abs
anti lock braking system, twin
sliding side doors, engine
immobiliser, passive anti theft
system, power assisted steering
heated laminate tin windscreen
with heated washer jets, electric
windows, steering wheel mounted
stereo controls, air conditioning,
electric heated door mirrors heated
rear window and wash wipes. Easy
access low floor wheel chair
locking system, easy care flooring,
4 point wheelchair securing
system. Electric side step, 5000
miles, taxed until February 2010 -
3 years' warranty - white wrapped
vehicle which can easily be
unwrapped log book colour sea
grey metallic. £15,500 ono. Tel:
07979 648801, email: Michelle.hawkins@ntlworld.com **TRADE**

FORD TRANSIT 2.0, diesel,
auto, blue, e/windows and
e/mirrors, pas. Fully adapted
conversion for wheelchair incl
remotely operated doors and
RICON lift at rear. Carries 5
including wheelchair. 6-way
driver's seater. Electronic ignition,
gears and handbrake. Infra red
ancillary controls on steering
knob. Only 27k miles, superb
condition, a bargain at £7,000.
Tel: 01287 203799 (Cleveland).

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO
1.2, pas, air con, central locking, CD
player, deep blue. With Gowings
Wheelchair Conversion incl lowered
floor, ramp and electric winch. Rear
access for wheelchair, carries 4
including wheelchair. Register May
2008 (08 plate), only 4k miles, in
excellent condition £8,600 ono. Tel:
01372 468231 (Esher, Surrey),
mobile: 07950 642554 or email:
denise.earle@talktalk.net

TOYOTA CELICA GTR 2.0,
auto, black with silver dragons,
J reg (92), e/windows and
e/mirrors, CD player with extra
rear speakers, stainless steel
exhaust, Momo alloy wheels, air
con, central locking, fully fitted
Clifford alarm system. Push/pull
hand controls, together with
indicator switch and steering
ball. MOT til sept '10, Tax til
July '10, solid and reliable,
£1,250 ono. Tel: 07830 450478
(Bristol) or email:
julie1974@blueyonder.co.uk

RENAULT SCENIC
DYNAMIQUE DCI 100, 2005.
1.5L diesel. Av 47 mpg, 41k
miles. Good condition. One
owner from new. Full service
history. Central locking, air con,
electric windows and mirrors,
silver metallic, CD player, roof
bars. Transfer free front
passenger seat wheelchair
system (www.baboulin.com) with
motorised lift arm and quick
release wheels on chair for use in
and out of car. Simple to use,
happy to demonstrate. MOT
June 2010. £6,600 ono. Mobile
07771 978992 (Greater London)
email: jdixon@tensar.co.uk

LAND ROVER FREELANDER
Kalahari Td4 auto. Adapted for
disabled driver and w/chair user,
just ability to transfer and
steer/hand controls needed.
Zambesi Silver, 2003. Only 36k
miles. Full LR service history.
Excellent condition, air con, fogs,
fully under-sealed, 6 CD Changer.
With adaptations, cost £30k+. 2
Turny seats which come out of
the car for transfers. Seating by
Recaro. 2 hoists, behind driver &
boot. Hand controls and cruise
control. 'Spider' roof box - serves
both sides. Reluctant sale. Great
drive. £17,950. Tel: 01428
727070 (Hampshire) or email:
mark_greenwood@btinternet.com

SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 petrol.
Brotherwood rear entry
wheelchair conversion with
inertia belts, R reg (1997), only
71k miles, metallic green, 4
passenger seats, FSH, PAS, 6 CD
auto-change, MOT to March
2010, one owner. Excellent
visibility for wheelchair passenger
and easy to drive. £1,950 ono.
Contact Chris Milne on 01684
833357 (Malvern,
Worcestershire) or e mail
c.m@cmail.co.uk

CITROEN RELAY DIESEL Van.
Red. W reg, 3 owners. Mileage
64544. Excellent condition no
rust. All wheelchair straps and
Attendant seat for the back. Full
MOT. Many new parts. Drop
down ramp. Tinted windows.
Electric winch. Radio. Takes two
power chairs. Price. Guide price
£4,250 but open to reasonable
offers. Email: mary.laver.e2e@googlemail.com or ring my
mobile 07975649162
(Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

FIAT DOBLO DYNAMIC
1.9 turbo diesel, 120 bhp. Very
good condition, only 27,000
miles, 56 plate. Top
specification: PAS, alloy wheels,
air conditioning, electric
windows, central locking, heated
mirrors, radio/CD player.
Automotive Group conversion
with lowered floor for easy access
and integral light weight
ramp. Seats 5 plus wheelchair.
Taxed until 31.03.10. Price
£7,800 ono. Email
bri.thtn@btinternet.com or
tel: 07786 278542 (Newcastle-
upon-Tyne).

VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE
2.4, Tdi, metallic green, pas,
e/windows and e/mirrors, air
con, central locking, category 1
Thatcham alarm and tracker,
fitted with 5 CD interchange and
DVD player. Invatravel

Wheelchair Conversion incl
side-loading RICON ramp and
full inertia belts. One owner
from new, 93k miles, fsh, in
excellent condition, full MOT,
£9,000 ono. Tel: 07966 014954
(Merseyside) or email:
davegraince@hotmail.co.uk

WHEELCHAIRS/SCOOTERS

LEVO LCM COMFORT
17" fully electric stand-up
wheelchair. Indoor/outdoor,
very good condition, can be
seen on Levo website. £950 ono.
Tel: 01902 730538
(Wolverhampton).

AKRON TILT TABLE, fully
electric, high/low stand-up. In
immaculate condition, cost
£2,000 new, asking £500. Tel:
01902 730538
(Wolverhampton).

GOWINGS POWER
RECHARGEABLE Electric
Wheelchair manufactured by
Adaptachair Ltd: maximum
carrying capacity of 16 stones,
maximum speed of 3.6 mph
controlled via control joystick
with variable speeds, battery
will last 12 miles at this speed,
joystick is situated at the back
of the wheelchair or on the arm
of the wheelchair, gearbox
disable facility available in the
event of a battery failure, LED
battery gauge display and a
LED speed display. Suitable for
both indoor and outdoor use.
Other advantages are electric
adjustments via control
joystick for: leg rest angle,
seat height, powered seat
back angle, the powerchair is
transferrable via a mobility
vehicle. Initial wheelchair cost
was £9,250, sale around
£4,500 ono. In excellent
condition. Tel Nick: 07966
652955 (S. Wales) or email:

cont'd pg 63

FOR SALE



THE UK'S FINEST SELECTION OF ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

Sample Selection... More Vehicles Added Daily



2005 Chrysler Voyager 2.8 Itr Turbo Diesel (J8334) Metallic black, 4 seats, Auto, 37,000 miles, Full Width Lightweight Ramp, Lowered rear floor for wheelchair access. **£13,995**

2005 Kia Sedona Wheelchair car 2.9 crd (J8504) Metallic blue, 4 seats, 25,226 miles, Full Low Floor Conversion. **£15,995**

2007 Mercedes Benz Sprinter SWB 2.2 Itr Turbo Diesel 209 (J8653) Automatic, 3,000 miles, Remote controlled rear doors and lift. **£23,995**



2007 Sirius Renault, Kangoo Auto 1.6 Itr Petrol (J9143) Silver, 3 seats, 5,500 miles, 5 door, Remote controlled rear doors and ramp. **£20,500**

2005 Volkswagen Transporter T5 SWB Wheelchair car 1.9 Itr Turbo Di (J9340) Blue, 4 seats, 19,000 miles, Electric Wheelchair Lift, Single front passenger seat, Two rear saloon passenger seats. **£11,250**

2007 Renault Kangoo Auto Lowered Floor 1.6 Itr Petrol (J9293) Silver, 14,000 miles, 5 door, Ramp, Lowered rear floor. **£10,750**



2008 Renault Kangoo Auto Lowered Floor 1.6 Itr petrol (J9200) Metallic blue, 4,800 miles, 5 door, Full Width Lightweight Ramp, Lowered rear floor for wheelchair access. **£11,250**

2005 Renault Master SWB Wheelchair car 2.5 Itr turbo diesel (J9296) Dark blue, 5 seats, 38,000 miles, Ramp electric winch. **£9,995**

2008 Peugeot Expert New shape (J9102) Metallic Grey, 4 seats, 9,000 miles, Full Width Lightweight Ramp, Lowered rear floor for wheelchair access. **£15,850**

www.gmcoachwork.co.uk | 0845 076 0963

PROPERTY TO BUY

RICK COTTAGE, CHIPPING CAMPDEN - £450,000 - Three-bedroom Cotswold stone 3Mi family home/investment (established disabled clientele yielding £25 - £30k/annum). NHBC Warranty 2005. Ground floor Design Matters adapted farmhouse kitchen, double bedroom (ensuite wetroom), lounge and south facing conservatory. Ensuite master bedroom (could be converted to double & single with family bathroom) and further ensuite (shower) double bedroom. Low allergen heat recovery/air filtration system, central vacuum cleaner and Karndean flooring on ground floor. Level access & parking for 3 cars. Secluded 3-4 house old-farm yard development in quiet hamlet of Westington about 600 yards from Chipping Campden's beautiful curved High Street.

Tel Michael Haines:
01386 840164 or email:
info@cotswoldcharm.co.uk

RESEARCH PROJECT

ARE YOU A disabled Christian? I am in the early stages of a research project on the Christian Church and disability. I would be interested to hear stories, both positive and negative, about the ways in which churches respond to disabled or chronically ill people. I am looking for a range of participants, including those with chronic health conditions, learning difficulties, mental health problems, and 'hidden' impairments. If interested, please contact Naomi at disabilityresearch1@gmail.com

COTSWOLD COTS

Build Cots and Beds for Adults and Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any Cot or Bed You Need.

New Products Extra Strong Playpens.
High Quality Extra Large Stairgates.

Fitted Padded Play Areas. Fair prices.

Information Phone 01993 842885.

Mobile 0777 3136480.

DN DEADLINE

December 2009 published 23 November. Classified deadlines:

Booking: 2 November. Copy: 4 November.

SALE



SAVE THOUSANDS
on our high quality, low
mileage **wheelchair**
accessible vehicles

Jubilee Automotive Group

No.1 in the UK for wheelchair accessible vehicles



COMPACT wheelchair accessible, over 15 in stock including

2003(53)	Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Club Liberty, 5sp, 16,000 mls	£6,895
2003(53)	Suzuki Wagon R Liberty 1.3GL 5sp, A/C, 4,000 mls	£7,295

MEDIUM wheelchair accessible, over 50 in stock including

2004(04)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique 5sp, 51,000 mls	£6,595
2004(04)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique 5sp, 29,000 mls	£6,895
2004(04)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique auto, A/C, 43,000 mls	£6,895
2004(54)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique 5sp, 20,000 mls	£7,295
2004(04)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique, 5sp, 7,000 mls	£7,595
2004(04)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Expression, 5sp, 18,000 mls	£7,595
2004(04)	Fiat Doblo 1.4 Low Floor Active 5sp, 9,000 mls	£7,595
2004(54)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Expression, 5sp, 8,000 mls	£7,895
2004(54)	Renault Kangoo 1.6 Authentique, auto, 21,000 mls	£8,295
2006(55)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique, 5sp, 17,000 mls	£8,295
2005(05)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique 5sp, A/C, 10,000 mls	£8,495
2006(06)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Expression, 5sp, 12,000 mls	£8,995
2006(56)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique, 5sp, 8,000 mls	£9,295
2005(55)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Expression, A/C, 5sp, 4,000 mls	£9,295
2007(07)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique, 5sp, 9,000 mls	£9,395
2005(55)	Renault Kangoo 1.5 DCi, Elap Seat + Low Floor, 10,000 mls	£9,495
2007(56)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique, 5sp, 2,000 mls	£9,595
2008(57)	Fiat Doblo 1.4 Dynamic Hi-roof, A/C, 5sp, 1,000 mls	£9,895
2008(57)	Renault Kangoo, 1.2 Authentique, 5sp, 5,000 mls	£9,895
2007(56)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique, A/C, 4,000 mls	£9,995
2007(57)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique 5sp, 5,000 mls	£10,295
2007(57)	Fiat Doblo 1.4 Active Low Floor, 5sp, 7,000 mls	£10,295
2008(57)	Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique, A/C, 5sp, 1,000 mls	£10,395
2007(07)	Renault Kangoo 1.6 Expression Auto, A/C, 27,000 mls	£10,795
2007(07)	Peugeot Partner 1.4 Totem, A/C, 5sp, 2,000 mls	£10,795
2008(57)	Renault Kangoo 1.6 Authentique auto, 3,000 mls	£10,895
2007(57)	Renault Kangoo 1.6 Authentique auto A/C, 22,000 mls	£10,995
2007(57)	Peugeot Partner 1.4 Totem, A/C, 5sp, 3,000 mls	£10,995
2007(57)	Fiat Doblo 1.9D Dynamic Low Floor, A/C, 5,000 mls	£11,595

FAMILY MPV wheelchair accessible, over 30 in stock including

1996 (P)	Ford Galaxy Brotherhood, 2.0 GLX, auto, part exchange	£5,995
2004(54)	Mercedes Vaneo, 1.6 Trend auto, 47,000 mls	£11,695
2004(04)	Kia Sedona CRDi LE, A/C, 5sp, 41,000 mls	£11,695
2004(04)	Mercedes Vaneo 1.6 Family auto, A/C, 47,000 mls	£12,295
2004(04)	Mercedes Vaneo 1.6 Trend, auto, 15,000 mls	£12,495
2004(04)	Kia Sedona CRDi SE, auto, leather, A/C, 21,000 mls	£13,595
2003(53)	Seat Alhambra 1.9TDi SE, auto, A/C, 25,000 mls	£13,795
2007(07)	Kia Sedona CRDi GS, 5sp, A/C, Full Low Floor, 12,000 mls	£19,995
2008(08)	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Life, 5sp, A/C, Full Low Floor, 5,000 mls	£19,995
2007(57)	Kia Sedona CRDi GS, auto, A/C, Full Low Floor, 14,000 mls	£21,295
2008(08)	Kia Sedona CRDi LS, 5sp, A/C, Full Low Floor 9,000 mls	£22,295
2008(08)	Kia Sedona CRDi LS, 5sp, A/C, Full Low Floor, 6,000 mls	£22,495
2008(08)	Kia Sedona CRDi LS, auto, A/C, Full Low Floor, 9,000 mls	£23,295
2008(58)	Kia Sedona CRDi LS, auto, A/C, Full Low Floor, 9,000 mls	£23,695
2009(59)	Kia Sedona CRDi GS, 5sp, A/C, Full Low Floor, NEW	£23,995
2009(59)	Kia Sedona CRDi LS, auto, A/C, Full Low Floor, NEW	£26,995
2009(59)	Kia Sedona CRDi TS, auto, A/C, Full Low Floor, leather, NEW	£28,995

LARGE

wheelchair accessible, over 20 in stock including

2004(04)	Citroen Dispatch 1.9D, 5sp, 5 seats, 41,000 mls	£8,795
2004(04)	Renault Master 2.5D 5sp, 5 seats, Chairlift, 35,000 mls	£12,295
2005(05)	Renault Master 2.5 DCi, 5sp, A/C, 5 seats, Ramp, 42,000 mls	£12,495
2007(07)	Volkswagen T5, 1.9TDi, 5sp, A/C, 5 seats, Chairlift, 10,000 mls	£15,995
2007(07)	Renault Master 2.5D 5sp, A/C, 5 seats, Chairlift, 10,000 mls	£16,995
2008(58)	Fiat New Scudo, 1.6D, 5sp, A/C, 5 seats, Low Floor, 5,000 mls	£17,995
2007(57)	Renault Master 2.5 DCi, auto, A/C, 5 seats, Chairlift, 18,000 mls	£18,395

WHEELCHAIR DRIVER

6 in stock including

2004(54)	Vexel Quovis Drive From Wheelchair Autos, choice, from	£3,995
1998(R)	Ford Transit 2.5 TD, Drive From, auto, 46,000 mls, part exchange	£4,995
2006(56)	Suzuki Life 1.3GL Drive From auto, Lowering system, 1,000 mls	£15,995
2004(54)	Chrysler Grand Voyager CRD Entervan, auto, 24,000 mls	£22,995
2009(59)	Renault Trafic Solus 1.9TDi, auto, Drive From, NEW	£25,995



CALL NOW TO ARRANGE A 'NO OBLIGATION' HOME VIEWING

• Motability
All of our superb Motability
Accredited Used Vehicles are
available on our LOW DEPOSIT
MOBILITY FINANCE PLAN

PART Best Offers EXCHANGE
We will gladly accept
your car, mpv
mobility vehicle
or 4x4 in part exchange

PHONE FREE
0800 634 8407
www.jubileeauto.net

NATIONWIDE HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
from our central location

OUR PRICES INCLUDE
up to **TWO YEARS**
* manufacturers or extended
AA5*****
WARRANTY

RECRUITMENT

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) was set up by the 2006 Equality Act. Our job is to break down inequality, build opportunity and support a civic society where fairness and the right of the individual to a life of dignity and respect is not merely an ideal but a fact.

We are an independent statutory body with the responsibility to protect, enforce and promote equality across the seven 'protected' grounds of age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

Disability Committee Members

15 days a year at £250 per day (pending review) plus expenses Ref: P140

Why should you be an Equality and Human Rights Commission Disability Committee Member?

Being a member of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Disability Committee will give you a unique opportunity to influence how disability equality issues are taken forward in the work of the Commission. This role is about working as part of a team to tackle discrimination against and promote the equality of disabled people. We are particularly looking for members who will bring experience and knowledge of disability and equality law, how government works and political parties and trade unions. We also welcome applications from people with a wide range of experience of disability and long-term mental or physical health conditions. At the same time, you will play a major part in developing one of Britain's most forward-thinking organisations.

What Committee Members have said about the role:

"Being a Member of the Disability Committee enables you to take part in policy work to tackle disadvantage and discrimination faced by members of our society who are most marginalised. The role enables you to work with Committee Members in building a inclusive society where everyone can fulfil their full potential".

"The Committee is made up of exceptionally dedicated individuals who work together as a team in a complementary and dynamic way. I am very proud to be part of a team that contributes to the positive impact on the lives of disabled people in the UK and ensures that disability issues remain central to the overall work of the EHRC."

NB: Appointments will be for up to 3 years, subject to annual performance appraisal.

Closing date: 12 noon, 24th November 2009. Interviews: December or early January

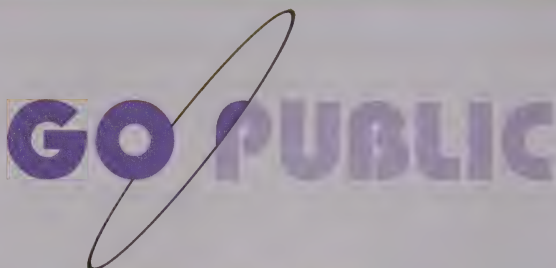
If you have any specific requirements to enable you to complete the application process please contact the Recruitment Team on 0161 829 8340 (textphone 0161 829 8341). We can provide vacancy details in a range of accessible formats.

For more information about these roles, including a full application pack, please visit our recruitment website at:

equalityhumanrightsjobs.com



**Equality and
Human Rights
Commission**



AN **ACCENTUATE** PROJECT

Call for artists

Dada-South and Artpoint are launching an exciting new opportunity for disabled and Deaf artists in the South East. This opportunity is open to artists at all stages in their career.

As part of the Accentuate programme, Go Public offers the opportunity for two or more disabled or Deaf artists to realise their work in the public realm.

This scheme will work with the chosen artists to develop their concepts and skills.

Go Public is open to disabled or Deaf artists, but we have a broad interpretation of disability and welcome applications from people who have impairments, people who feel disabled or have ongoing health conditions. We will also consider applications from other creative practices.

Support will be provided for applicants to develop their applications and the chosen applicants will be given one to one support throughout the process.

For further information and to request a project brief please contact
info@artpointtrust.org.uk or call **01865 248822**.

If you need support with your application, the closing date for requests is
Monday 23 November 2009.

Final submissions must be received by 5pm on Monday 14 December 2009.

RECRUITMENT



**YOUR SUPPORT WILL
TAKE US FURTHER**

Resource Management • Corporate Support • Communications & Media • Business Management & Improvement
 • Estates Information • Engineering & Science • Health Professionals • Logistics Programme & Project Management
 • Security • Health & Safety • Graduate Opportunities

We couldn't safeguard a nation without the commitment of thousands of civilian staff in a wide range of jobs and locations. Whatever your skills and background, whatever role you're interested in, you can make a valuable contribution to our success on the front line.

Visit civilianjobs.mod.uk to find out more.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

A FORCE FOR GOOD

The MOD is an Equal Opportunities employer and seeks to reflect the diverse community it serves.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WARNING

We have been warned about a scam involving people from overseas who say they want to buy a product and who offer to pay using cheques, Western Union money transfers and certified cheques. Although no *Disability Now* readers to our knowledge have been hit by this, please be particularly wary of accepting cheques from overseas. For more information, visit the Metropolitan Police website.

HOLIDAYS

Disabled Access Holidays



Puerto Pollensa - Majorca
Wheelchair accessible
apartments to let



Molift Hoist, Shower Chair
& Changing Table available
for full details please visit...

www.dah-europe.com
Tel: 0845 257 0112

MELLWATERS BARN

LUXURY AND SPACIOUS SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION



Wake up to wildlife on the edge of England's last wilderness,
with quiet country roads and magnificent scenery.
Beautiful clean air and spring water these award winning
cottages are designed for a perfect relaxing holiday.

- All cottages have lifts and profiling beds.
- Hoists in the bathrooms of three cottages.
- One cottage has a level entry shower room (wet room):
- Spacious living area and kitchen, in larger cottages wheelchair access throughout.
- For an internal view of any cottage please visit our website:
www.mellwatersbarn.co.uk

Rates: £100 to £360 per cottage per week, depending on size of cottage and season. Short breaks also available. Prices include linen, heating, electricity etc.

Mellwaters Barn, East Mellwaters Farm, Bowes, Barnard Castle, DL12 9RH.
Tel: 01833 628181 Fax: 01833 628020
Email: mellwatersbarn@aol.com Web: www.mellwatersbarn.co.uk

Disabled Access Holidays



- Spain
- Portugal
- Tenerife
- Cuba
- Egypt
- Florida
- Caribbean

Free
Brochure!

Destinations
All Around
The World

Tel: 0845 257 0112
www.disabledaccessholidays.com



Creedy Manor

Four star, stone cottage apartments offering self-catering accommodation near Exeter (7 miles) and just 1/2 mile Crediton. Ideal central location for holidays, short breaks or for business. Four character apartments, one of which is designed to accommodate wheelchair guests (wet room style shower). Choose from the many varied attractions, activities and places of interest Devon has to offer.

Enjoy our on-site estate lakes abundant with small birds, kingfishers, water fowl all surrounded by wildlife and woodlands.

Tel (01363) 772684. www.creedymanor.com

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL

"Holiday Care Award Winners"

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families.
Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves.
Please ring or write for colour brochure.

N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ.
Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617
www.penroseburden.co.uk

Would you like to be a part of an exciting new
holiday project specialising for we less able-bodied
individuals, situated in the Canary Islands.
Tel: 01905423979. www.lanzarotevilla4u.co.uk

Island Meadow Caravan Park

David Bellamy Gold conservation award – 3 star

6 miles north west of Stratford off A3400 or A46 follow signs for Aston Cantlow village, park is 0.25 mile west in Mill Lane. Quiet riverside park on sheltered island by picturesque village in historic Shakespeare country, close to Stratford. Fishing free to guests. Bookings necessary. Open 1/03 to 31/10. Tourers from £18 Tents from £14. Holiday homes to hire – including ramped access Ruby Super (disabled spec.) Small licensed shop.

Aston Cantlow, Warwickshire B95 6JP. Tel/fax: 01789 488273
e-mail: holiday@islandmeadowcaravanpark.co.uk
www.islandmeadowcaravanpark.co.uk

HOLIDAYS

Hotel 
mar y sol

barrier-free 
holidays

www.marysol.org
0034 - 922 750 540



We offer you:

- A holiday knowing that the hotel is wheelchair-accessible throughout
- Two big pools with hoists, one heated all year round to approx. 32°C
- An invigorating holiday, individual and independent: with the reassurance that pre-booked personal care is available when required
- Our modern therapy centre, Teralava, offers a great variety of traditional and alternative therapies
- Appliances for hire (electric beds, hoists, air-mattresses, electric wheelchairs, etc.)
- 24-hour emergency service provided by qualified male and female nursing staff
- Golf and diving for the disabled
- Wheelchair accessible transfers and tours

Disabled & Carers English Coastal Holidays

All carefully designed for tetraplegic owner. Ceiling hoists
Electric hi/lo profiling beds Shower/toileting chairs Pressure
relief mattresses **LAKE DISTRICT: NEW!** Large caravan.

Superb location and views. South-facing balcony Lake
cruises, pubs, restaurants, many other attractions only
5-30 minutes away. Similar accommodation in prime
location at **Filey, North Yorkshire Coast** Also apartments

on level sea-front prom-path sea/mountain views
sleeping 6+4 at **Heysham Morecambe Bay**. See

www.theukweb.com/disabledholidays or call 01274 588142

"All Season" Villa Ampelitis, Paphos, Cyprus

Wheelchair accessible design

- Heated indoor pool
- Pool hoist & bed hoist
- Level access
- Wheel-in showers
- Shower chairs
- And so much more

Tel London 020 8440 6219 • www.sundancevillas.co.uk



Holiday Villa To Let

Tenerife - Los Cristianos

Electric adjustable bed with cot sides.
Heated pool with hoist. Ramped access.
Mobile hoist for transfers to bed. Three
bedrooms, sleeps up to six people.
Wheelchair adapted vehicle and twenty
minute transfer from airport available.
Also air conditioning, washroom and
English terrestrial television. Local web
advisor speaks English.

Tel: Mr or Mrs Costelloe

01670 761242 or 07960416820

Email: dazsmi2k@yahoo.co.uk



Luxury Self Catering Accommodation

Cornwall



Southern Cross, Penponds Rural Setting

Explore south west Cornwall
Rural setting large garden,
10 seat hot tub, 6 bedrooms
5 bathrooms, (2 ensuite)
Sleeps 10. Ground floor
Wheel chair accessible twin
bedroom and wet room.
Discounted rates for small
parties

Portugal



Lagos, Algarve, Portugal Swimming pool

Convenient hillside setting,
just minutes from beaches,
golf, shops, bars and restaurants.
2 ground floor wheelchair
accessible apartments one
2 bedroom and one 3 bedroom,
hoist into pool (hospital bed and
hoist available). Wheelchair
adapted car available to guests.



Contact Hazel for more information 07977 269936
or 01209 714314 web site www.treagooselet.co.uk



DISCLAIMER

Disability Now is not
responsible for claims
made in the adverts it
prints. Readers are
advised to check
claims with
advertisers before
relying on them.

Self - Catering Cottages in Norfolk and Scotland

Purpose-built, self-catering cottages for
severely disabled and family in pretty villages
of East Harling, Norfolk and Dirlton, East
Lothian. Cottages sleep 6 (2 with disabilities).
State-of-the-art facilities include electrically
operated beds, Clos-o-Mat toilet, bedroom-
to-bathroom ceiling hoist, wheelchair shower
and much more. Awarded highest National
Accessible Scheme ratings. Weekly rates
£375 - £865 (2010). Please enquire about
our amazing out-of-season offers available
November - March.

For bookings tel: 01787 372343 (office hours)
or email: info@theinberwicktrust.org.uk
Website: www.theinberwicktrust.org.uk

backlash



Why Paul's not playing ball

It used to be called Murderball and apparently, **Paul Carter** is a shoe-in for stardom playing it. So why is he less than thrilled

During my time as a journalist I've been fortunate enough to be asked to do many different things, some exciting, some interesting, some only barely socially acceptable. From being invited to fire guns with the police at a firearms training day to being sent around the less salubrious areas of London's Soho looking for certain 'specialist' films, the requests have been varied. Though even by those standards, I took a phone call a while back that surprised even me.

I was told that I'm a prime specimen (!) for playing wheelchair rugby.

Apparently, people with impairments similar to mine are known as high point players, and are extremely valuable to the sport. By all accounts, I am precisely what they are looking for.

My already inflated ego was suitably massaged. Still, despite being quite au fait with most Paralympic sports, wheelchair rugby is admittedly one that I know least about. So, I did as most people do these days when faced with a knowledge gap, I ran straight to Google and

Wikipedia, the lazy learner's friends. I found videos of wheelchair rugby. Oh my God. One thing quickly became apparent ahead of all others – that I am going to get killed. The sport used to be called Murderball for goodness sake. Murderball! Don't get me wrong, but anything, not necessarily just sport, with murder in the title doesn't scream appeal. (Maybe scream isn't the right word in this context but you get my meaning.) All the guys who play it look terrifyingly strong

and it's played in armoured wheelchairs.

I'm not really built for sport. Not nowadays

“All the guys who play it look terrifyingly strong and it's played in armoured wheelchairs”

anyhow. I used to swim competitively as a junior and was mildly successful, but threw my toys out of the

pram for being disqualified on a technicality in a race when I was 15 and never swam again. I then made it my duty to live the life of an anti-athlete. Consuming as much debauchery as my little body can handle. Sweet, sweet debauchery.

Still, despite all this I've decided that I'm going to give it a go. Sadly I couldn't make the training camp I was invited to as it clashed with the similarly violent party political conference season. Day jobs, hey? Still, there's another one coming up in a few months time so I'll get myself along to that and see if I have what it takes. I am slightly terrified

by the fact that such high hopes are being pinned on me though. What if I throw like a girl? What if I'm as mobile in a wheelchair around a basketball court as a – well, as a bloke with no arms in a wheelchair around a basketball court?

The potential for humiliation here is worryingly high. Not that you lot will care about that though, seeing as the only upside to me getting smashed left right and centre is that at least I can write about it here.



© CLAIRELIZ - FOTOLIA.COM



Information
for disabled
people

Directgov

Advice that's
easy to find

Directgov



www.direct.gov.uk/disability

Directgov is the website to visit for the latest information and services from government. It's clearly written, useful and the information is all in one place.

There's a large section for disabled people covering:

- ➔ home and housing
- ➔ financial support
- ➔ disability rights
- ➔ employment
- ➔ health and support

Find out about equipment, adapting your home or vehicle, direct payments (arranging your own care and services), social care assessments, the Blue Badge parking scheme – including an interactive UK-wide map, travel and transport, accessible technology – and much more.

There's also information for carers and links to charities and helpful organisations supporting disabled people.

Sedona
fully converted
OTR price
£19,950



Different by Design



Sedona



Caravelle

Upfront Wheelchair Position



Cruiser Mk III



Caddy Life

**For upfront wheelchair position
upgrade your WAV for just £1,595**

Outstanding for style, comfort and quality.
Lewis Reed provide practical, flexible and highly
accommodating vehicles.



Left
Sedona
lowered
floor and
TorSpring®
ramp

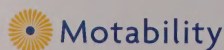
Our customers say...

*From advising us, to choosing the right vehicle,
to delivering on time, Lewis Reed has been
exceptional! We would definitely recommend
them.*

- Mr and Mrs G. Cheshire

Our specialist design team have made further
unique developments and conversions to our high
performance cars, making them quieter, smoother
and more versatile than any other models on the
market. Lewis Reed have built and finished these
vehicles to the highest standard with only you
in mind.

CALL FREE on 0800 247 1001*
www.lewisreedgroup.co.uk



Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Converters Association

*Calls from UK landlines are free of charge, calls from mobile networks may incur additional charges, please check with your telephone provider for detail